

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1280

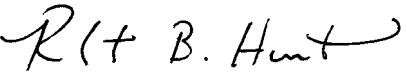
H.P. 855

House of Representatives, March 25, 2025

### **Resolve, to Create Pilot Programs to Provide Tuition Assistance and Grants for Rural Child Care Providers**

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, HASENFUS  
of Readfield, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, OSHER of Orono, RAY of Lincolnville, Senators:  
GROHOSKI of Hancock, RENY of Lincoln.

1       **Sec. 1. Tuition assistance pilot program. Resolved:** That, by July 1, 2026, the  
2 Department of Education shall develop a pilot program to provide tuition assistance to  
3 students pursuing a degree in early childhood education or a related field. In developing  
4 the program, the department shall provide that students awarded assistance must be  
5 ineligible for free community college enrollment, must reside in a county with a population  
6 under 100,000 and must also apply for federal financial aid.

7       **Sec. 2. Rural child care development pilot program. Resolved:** That, by  
8 July 1, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services shall develop a pilot program  
9 to provide grants to child care providers licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title  
10 22, section 8301-A, subsection 2 and family child care providers licensed under Title 22,  
11 section 8301-A, subsection 3 and located in counties with populations under 100,000 to  
12 open or expand child care programs.

13       **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following  
14 appropriations and allocations are made.

15       **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

16       **Higher Education and Educator Support Services Z082**

17 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a pilot program to provide tuition assistance to  
18 eligible students pursuing a degree in early childhood education or a related field. Up to  
19 \$30,000 of the funding may be used by the department to administer the pilot program.

20	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
21	All Other	\$300,000	\$0
22			
23	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

24  
25       **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**  
26       **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

26		<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
27			
28	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
29			
30	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

31       **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

32       **Child Care Services 0563**

33 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a pilot program to provide grants to child care  
34 providers in rural areas to establish or expand child care programs. Up to \$30,000 of the  
35 funding may be used by the department to administer the pilot program.

36	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
37	All Other	\$300,000	\$0
38			
39	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

40

1	<b>HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,</b>		
2	<b>DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
3	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
4			
5	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
6			
7	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
8			
9	<b>SECTION TOTALS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
10			
11	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
12			
13	<b>SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

14 **SUMMARY**

15       This bill directs the Department of Education to develop, by July 1, 2026, a pilot  
16 program to provide tuition assistance to students pursuing a degree in early childhood  
17 education or a related field. In developing the program, the department must provide that  
18 students awarded assistance must be ineligible for free community college enrollment,  
19 must reside in a county with a population under 100,000 and must also apply for federal  
20 financial aid.

21       This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to develop, by July 1,  
22 2026, a pilot program to provide grants to child care providers licensed under the Maine  
23 Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 8301-A, subsection 2 and family child care providers  
24 licensed under Title 22, section 8301-A, subsection 3 and located in counties with  
25 populations under 100,000 to open or expand child care programs.

26       This bill also includes a one-time appropriation of \$600,000 to implement these pilot  
27 programs.