

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. S-325)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 444, L.D. 1536, Bill, "AN ACT Authorizing an Increase in Payments to Foster Homes and Boarding Homes."

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and by inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3802, sub-§1, ¶¶'s A, B and C, as amended by PL 1977, c. 107, are further amended to read:

A. The foster home board care, when combined with any other resources as may be available to share the costs of the care payment, shall be at a rate which is at least equal to, but not less than, the rate in the following schedule:

For Care Of A Child Who Is	Rate Per Month
Normal	\$ 120 <u>\$140</u>
Mildly Handicapped	140 <u>160</u>
Moderately Handicapped	160 <u>185</u>
Severely Handicapped	190 <u>220</u>

B. For residential child care facilities in an amount equal to, but not exceeding, ~~80%~~ 85% of audited cost and based on actual expenditures in the most recent

fiscal year. The total amount paid from all sources shall not exceed 100% of actual cost.

C. For boarding care in so-called private schools in an amount equal to ~~80%~~ 85% of audited unit cost ~~up to \$175 per month, except where a child has unusual needs in an amount equal to 80% of audited cost up to \$300 per month~~ based on actual expenditures in the most recent fiscal year. The total amount paid from all sources shall not exceed 100% of audited unit cost. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this paragraph, when placements in so-called private schools have been exhausted or are otherwise unavailable for any child, the commissioner is authorized to negotiate with other appropriate facilities, including private schools, for placement of the child on the basis of a flat-rate method of payment.

Sec. 2. Boarding care payments. Except as otherwise indicated in Title 22, section 7906, the Department of Human Services shall reimburse all boarding care facilities with 6 or fewer beds at a rate of at least \$225 per month.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services the sum of \$910,000 for the purpose of increasing payments to foster homes and boarding homes pursuant to this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	<u>1977-78</u>	<u>1978-79</u>
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Child Welfare Services		
All Other	\$125,000	\$125,000
Supplementary Security Income		
All Other	<u>330,000</u>	<u>330,000</u>
Total	\$455,000	\$455,000'

Fiscal Note

The total cost per year of increasing the payments for foster care and residential care for children, as specified in this amendment, is \$269,000. However, the amount appropriated in this amendment is only \$125,000 per year. The reason is that the Department of Human Services has indicated that it plans to dip into the estimated \$575,000 surplus in the Child Welfare Account at the end of this fiscal year to fund increases in foster care payments totaling \$144,000 per year. The appropriation in this amendment, \$125,000 per year, equals the difference between the total amount needed for these payments, \$269,000, and the amount of surplus funds the department has already planned to expend per year for this purpose, \$144,000.

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The total cost per year of increasing to \$225 per month the payments to all boarding care facilities of 6 beds or fewer is \$388,500. However, the appropriation included in this amendment is only \$330,000 per year. The reason is that the Department of Human Services has indicated that the amount for supplemental security income in L.D. 1859, the Part I budget bill, is sufficient for funding \$58,500 per year worth of increased payments to small boarding homes. Therefore, the appropriation in this amendment is based on the assumptions that the amount of supplemental security income, currently in L.D. 1859, will pass without amendment and that the department will use the \$58,500 per year toward the increased boarding home payments. In sum, the appropriation in this amendment, \$ 330,000 per year, equals the difference between the total amount needed to increase boarding care payments, \$388,500 and the amount the department says has already been requested in the Part I budget for this purpose, \$58,500.

Statement of Fact

The purposes of this amendment are:

1. To increase the specific foster care and residential care payment increases to be funded;
2. To specify that all boarding care facilities with 6 or fewer beds must be reimbursed at a rate of at least \$225 per month;

3. To adjust the appropriations and to accommodate the increased foster care payments; and

4. To add a fiscal note.

Reported by the Committee on Health and Institutional Services.

Reproduced and distributed pursuant to Senate Rule 11-A.

June 23, 1977

(Filing No. S-325)