

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. H-805)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1358, L.D. 1602, Bill, "AN ACT to Appropriate Funds for Foster Care of Abused and Neglected Children."

Amend the Bill by striking out the title and inserting in its place the following: 'AN ACT to Increase Payments to Foster Homes for Children and to Small Boarding Homes for Adults.'

Further amend the Bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3802, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 1977, c.107, is 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>132</u> |
| Mildly Handicapped | 140 | <u>154</u> |
| Moderately Handicapped | 160 | <u>176</u> |
| Severely Handicapped | 190 | <u>209</u> |

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3802, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 1977, c.107, is further amended to read:

C. For boarding care in so-called private schools in an amount equal to 80% 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. 3. Boarding care payments. Except as otherwise provided in ^{the Revised Statutes, 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 \$200 per month.

Fiscal Note

The cost of increasing foster care payments, as provided under section 1 of the amendment, will be roughly \$144,000 for each year of the biennium. The Department of Human Services has indicated that there will be enough money in the Child Welfare Account at the end of this fiscal year (i.e., \$575,000) to fund this increase in payments.

The cost of reimbursing all boarding care facilities with 6 beds at a rate of \$200 per month, as provided under section 2 of the amendment, will cost roughly \$58,500 during each year of the biennium. The Department has indicated that the amount for Supplementary Security Income included in LD 1859, the Part I Budget bill, is adequate to fund the cost of increasing these boarding home payments.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purposes of this amendment are:

1. To indicate the specific foster care payment increases to be funded;
2. To add a requirement that the Department of Human Services must fund boarding care facilities with 3 to 5 beds at least \$200 per month which is the rate already paid to 6-bed boarding care facilities; and
3. To remove the appropriation and to include a fiscal note explaining the costs of and available funds for the amendment.

As indicated in the Fiscal Note, this amendment requires no appropriation.

Reported by the Committee on Health and Institutional Services.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
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