

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1270

S.P. 433

In Senate, February 16, 1999

**An Act to Provide Child Care Subsidies for Families Who Lose
Coverage under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program.**

Submitted by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PARADIS of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Senator MITCHELL of Penobscot, Representatives: BRAGDON of Bangor,
FULLER of Manchester.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3762, sub-§8, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 530, Pt. A, §16, is amended to read:

C. The department shall make available transitional child care services to families who lose eligibility for TANF as a result of increased earnings or an increase in the number of hours worked and whose gross income is equal to or less than 85% of the State's median income for a family of comparable size. The department may also make transitional child care services available to families in which one or both adults are working and who, although they remain financially eligible for TANF benefits, request that their benefits be terminated. The family shall pay a premium of 2% to 10% of gross income, based on the family's gross income compared to the federal poverty level in accordance with rules adopted by the department. The department shall establish maximum rates for child care that are at least equal to the 75th percentile of local market rates for various categories of child care and higher rates for children with special needs. Parents must have a choice of child care within the rate established by the department.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the Department of Human Services to provide transitional child care services to families who elect to discontinue receiving TANF benefits but who have earned income.