

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 283

H.P. 227

House of Representatives, January 19, 2007

An Act To Require Direct Payment to Child Care Centers

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUPREY of Hampden.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CAMPBELL of Newfield, CEBRA of Naples, HAMPER of Oxford, LANSLEY of Sabattus, WALKER of Lincolnville.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3735**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 530, Pt. A, §13, is repealed
3 and the following enacted in its place:

4 **§3735. Child care for ASPIRE-TANF participants**

5 **1. Information regarding child care.** The department shall ensure that all persons
6 referred for participation in the State's ASPIRE-TANF program receive information
7 regarding child care options from caseworkers who are knowledgeable about the range of
8 child care subsidies available in this State and who can explain the relative advantages of
9 each option. This may be done directly by the department or by the department's
10 designee.

11 **2. Transitional child care benefits.** With regard to transitional child care benefits
12 payable on behalf of a parent who is transitioning off the ASPIRE-TANF program, the
13 department, when paying for child care, shall make payment payable directly to the child
14 care provider or facility that provided the care.

15 **3. Overpayments.** With regard to overpayments recovered by the State beginning
16 January 1, 2004, the department shall first pay any child care provider or facility that is
17 owed reimbursement for child care services for the ASPIRE-TANF participant from
18 whom the overpayment is recovered.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill makes payment for child care benefits for a person transitioning off the
21 ASPIRE-TANF program payable directly to the child care provider or facility that
22 provided the child care and provides a mechanism for paying for child care services for
23 which reimbursement is owed.