MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 335

H.P. 249

House of Representatives, February 2, 2017

An Act To Expand Child Care Options for Children Placed with Older Kinship Guardians

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative NADEAU of Winslow.

Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and

Representatives: FARNSWORTH of Portland, HICKMAN of Winthrop, HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach, MALABY of Hancock, PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield, RYKERSON of Kittery,

Senator: CHENETTE of York.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4062, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Child care expenses incurred by older kinship guardians. The department shall reimburse 100% of the child care expenses incurred by an adult relative guardian of a minor for child care for the minor, including after-school care for a child attending kindergarten through 6th grade. The department may not require the guardian to be employed a minimum number of hours per week in order to receive reimbursement under this subsection. To be eligible for reimbursement under this subsection, an adult relative guardian of a minor must have an income of \$50,000 or less a year. For the purposes of this subsection, "adult relative guardian of a minor" means a person who is 60 years of age or older and is a court-appointed guardian of a minor who is a relative of the person.

12 SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse 100% of the child care expenses incurred by an adult relative guardian of a minor if the guardian is 60 years of age or older and has an annual income of \$50,000 or less. The bill also prohibits the department from requiring the guardian to be employed a minimum number of hours per week in order to receive the reimbursement.