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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
130TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 91, L.D. 135, “An Act To Address Issues in Funding Prekindergarten Programs”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services To Study a Centralized Billing Process for Developmental and School-based Services Covered by the MaineCare Program and Other Insurers and Report on Updates to the Child Find Process'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

**'Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** this resolve directs the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services, to study the development of a centralized billing system for developmental and school-based services covered by the MaineCare program and other insurers and report on updates to the child find process and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services; and

**Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for the next legislative session; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

**Sec. 1. Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services to study a centralized billing process for developmental and school-based services covered by the MaineCare program and other insurers.**

**Resolved:** That the Department of Education shall collaborate with the Department of

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 Health and Human Services to study the development of a centralized billing system to  
2 process claims to the MaineCare program and other insurers, including private insurance,  
3 for children with disabilities from birth to 22 years of age. The study must address:

4 1. How to maximize revenue through automation and efficiencies;

5 2. What services are currently billed, what services are not currently billed but are  
6 covered by the MaineCare program or private insurance and could be billed, what services  
7 are coverable by Medicaid programs but are not currently covered by the MaineCare  
8 program and how to align service definitions;

9 3. How a centralized billing system could best be designed to be accessible and user-  
10 friendly for school administrative units;

11 4. Examples of other states with centralized billing systems, including but not limited  
12 to New Hampshire and New York, using data and information provided by a statewide  
13 education policy research institute and other 3rd-party entities, as available;

14 5. Options for the development of a billing system through a 3rd party or through state  
15 agencies, such as the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of  
16 Education or the Department of Administrative and Financial Services;

17 6. How seed money is currently used to fund MaineCare-covered school-based  
18 services; and

19 7. How special purpose preschools could maintain their own separate billing system if  
20 a centralized system is implemented.

21 **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That the Department of Education and the Department  
22 of Health and Human Services shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education  
23 and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no  
24 later than February 1, 2022 on the study under section 1. The Joint Standing Committee on  
25 Education and Cultural Affairs may report out a bill related to the report to the Second  
26 Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

27 **Sec. 3. Department of Education to report on updates to child find.**  
28 **Resolved:** That the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of  
29 Health and Human Services, shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and  
30 Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later  
31 than February 1, 2022 on efforts to develop, improve and oversee the implementation of  
32 the statewide child find plan. The report must include, but is not limited to:

33 1. Meetings and recommendations from the state interagency coordinating council  
34 described under 20 United States Code, Section 1441;

35 2. Updates on current child find initiatives;

36 3. An examination, including a review of criteria used by other jurisdictions, of how  
37 the State can move forward on expanded eligibility criteria to enable more children with  
38 less significant developmental delays to be served;

39 4. Ways to access, leverage and enhance the Department of Health and Human  
40 Services' Child Development Services System referral system;

41 5. Current initiatives and future plans to improve support for children who are referred  
42 but not found eligible for services;

1 6. Data regarding the correlation, if any, between the provision of early intervention  
2 services and the need for services later in life;

3 7. Any applicable memoranda of agreement between the Department of Education and  
4 the Department of Health and Human Services; and

5 8. Any additional recommendations on improving child find efforts throughout the  
6 State.

7 The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out a bill  
8 related to the report to the Second Regular Session of 130th Legislature.

9 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following  
10 appropriations and allocations are made.

11 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

12 **Leadership Team Z077**

13 Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the research, technology, travel and meeting costs  
14 associated with studying the development of a centralized billing system to process claims  
15 to MaineCare and other insurers, including private insurers, for children with disabilities  
16 from birth to 22 years of age.

17 <b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
18 All Other	\$19,414	\$0
19		
20 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$19,414	\$0

21 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation  
22 takes effect when approved.'

23 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
24 number to read consecutively.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, with a resolve. The  
27 amendment directs the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of  
28 Health and Human Services, to study the development of a centralized billing process for  
29 developmental and school-based services covered by the MaineCare program and other  
30 insurers and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and  
31 the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than February 1,  
32 2022. The amendment also directs the Department of Education, in collaboration with the  
33 Department of Health and Human Services, to report to the Joint Standing Committee on  
34 Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human  
35 Services no later than February 1, 2022 on efforts to develop, improve and oversee the  
36 statewide child find plan. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
37 is authorized to report out bills related to the reports to the Second Regular Session of the  
38 130th Legislature. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

39 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

40 (See attached)