**§3740-B. High-quality child care costs estimator tool**

The department shall create and maintain an estimator tool in accordance with this section to calculate the actual cost of quality child care. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. VVV, §7 (NEW).]

**1. Considerations.**  In developing the costs estimator tool, the department shall consider:

A. Including a living wage compensation scale for early childhood educators; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. VVV, §7 (NEW).]

B. Including employee salaries and benefits; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. VVV, §7 (NEW).]

C. Including facility costs; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. VVV, §7 (NEW).]

D. Including costs associated with compliance with statutory and rule requirements, including the child care quality rating system under section 3737, subsection 3 and specific costs associated with each step of the rating system and any quality indicators used; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. VVV, §7 (NEW).]

E. Differentiating rates by child age and geographic region; and [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. VVV, §7 (NEW).]

F. Using data and research from available studies and reports. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. VVV, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. VVV, §7 (NEW).]

**2. Accessibility.**  The estimator tool must be publicly accessible. The department's process for making changes to the tool must be transparent to the public.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. VVV, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. VVV, §7 (NEW).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023
 . The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.