

**SENATE, No. 1456**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**217th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 16, 2016

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**  
**District 29 (Essex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Makes supplemental appropriation of \$18,000,000 from General Fund to DHS to expand eligibility for child care services in certain school districts.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning child care services and supplementing and  
2 amending the Fiscal Year 2016 annual appropriations act,  
3 P.L.2015, c.63.

4

5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2015, c.63,  
9 there is appropriated out of the General Fund the following sum for  
10 the purpose specified:

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**54 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

*50. Economic Planning, Development, and Security*

*53. Economic Assistance and Security*

**GRANTS-IN-AID**

15-7550 Income Maintenance Management.....	\$18,000,000
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Total Grants-in-Aid Appropriation, Economic Assistance and Security.....	\$18,000,000
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*Grants-in-Aid:*

15 Work First New Jersey Child Care..... (\$18,000,000)

12 (cf: P.L.2015, c.63, s.1)

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14 2. The following language provision in section 1 of P.L.2015,  
15 c.63 is amended to read as follows:

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**54 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

*50. Economic Planning, Development, and Security*

*53. Economic Assistance and Security*

**GRANTS-IN-AID**

17 Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the  
18 contrary, no funds hereinabove appropriated for before-school,  
19 after-school, and summer “wrap around” child care shall be  
20 expended except in accordance with the following condition:  
21 Effective September 1, 2010, families with incomes between 101%  
22 and 250% of the federal poverty level who reside in districts who  
23 received Preschool Expansion Aid or Education Opportunity Aid in  
24 the 2007-2008 school year shall be subject to a copayment for  
25 “wrap around” child care, based upon a schedule approved by the  
26 Department of Human Services and published in the New Jersey  
27 Register, and effective September 1, 2010, families who reside in  
28 districts who received Preschool Expansion Aid or Education  
29 Opportunity Aid in the 2007-2008 school year must meet the  
30 eligibility requirements under the New Jersey Cares for Kids child  
31 care program (N.J.A.C.10:15-5.1 et seq.) in order to receive free or  
32 subsidized “wrap around” child care, except that eligibility shall not

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1     be restricted on the basis of income for any family with an income  
2     less than 250% of the federal poverty level, and no work  
3     requirement greater than 15 hours per week shall be imposed.

4     (cf: P.L.2015, c.63, s.1)

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6     3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11     This bill provides a supplemental appropriation of \$18 million to  
12     the Department of Human Services to expand eligibility for “wrap  
13     around” child care services provided to families in former Abbott  
14     school districts. Historically, State-funded preschool in these  
15     districts has been supplemented by “wrap around” child care  
16     services funded by the Department of Human Services, covering up  
17     to four hours of before- and after-school care during the school  
18     year, and full-day care during the summer. Beginning with the  
19     Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations act, new restrictions were imposed  
20     on eligibility for services, including a stricter income eligibility  
21     limit for families newly entering the program (currently 200 percent  
22     of the federal poverty level, though families already participating  
23     can remain eligible with incomes up to 250 percent of the federal  
24     poverty level), required copayments (on a sliding scale based on the  
25     family’s income), and work requirements (25 or 30 hours per week  
26     of employment or job training activities). This bill would restore  
27     the income eligibility limit to 250 percent of the federal poverty  
28     level for all program participants, and relax the work requirements  
29     to allow parents who work part-time to continue to receive  
30     subsidized child care beyond school day hours.