

SENATE, No. 1456

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

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.