

ASSEMBLY, No. 4494

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Revises method used to determine State subsidies to child care providers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning State subsidies to child care providers and
2 supplementing P.L.1983, c.492.

3

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

6

7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Child care services” means those services for which the State
9 and the federal government provide subsidy payments to licensed
10 child care providers pursuant to the “Child Care and Development
11 Block Grant Act of 1990,” Pub.L.97-35 (42 U.S.C. s.9857 et seq.),
12 as amended.

13 “Child Care and Development Fund” (CCDF) means the federal
14 block grant to state, territory, and tribal governments, authorized
15 pursuant to the “Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of
16 1990,” Pub.L.97-35 (42 U.S.C. s.9857 et seq.), as amended, that
17 supports low-income families in paying for quality child care
18 services for children up to the age of 13 years.

19 “Eligible child” means a child who:

20 a. is under 13 years of age and resides with a family that meets
21 income eligibility and participation requirements for subsidized
22 child care under the “Child Care and Development Block Grant Act
23 of 1990,” Pub.L.97-35 (42 U.S.C. s.9857 et seq.), as amended;

24 b. is under 19 years of age and has a diagnosed physical or
25 intellectual disability that renders the individual incapable of
26 independent self-care; or

27 c. receives child protective services from the Division of Child
28 Protection and Permanency in the Department of Children and
29 Families.

30 “Eligible family” means an eligible child and the child’s parent
31 by blood, marriage or adoption, and also means a legal guardian, or
32 any other person having responsibility for, or custody of, a child or
33 standing in “loco parentis.”

34

35 2. a. Subsidy payments to a provider of child care services
36 shall be based on the following factors:

37 (1) the number of children enrolled with the provider on a full-
38 time basis who are eligible for subsidized child care services, as
39 certified by the Division of Family Development within the
40 Department of Human Services;

41 (2) the number of children enrolled with the provider on a part-
42 time basis who are eligible for subsidized child care services, as
43 certified by the Division of Family Development within the
44 Department of Human Services;

45 (3) the age of the eligible child; and,

46 (4) whether the eligible child has a medically diagnosed
47 developmental or intellectual disability.

1 order to compensate providers for the higher intensity of care
2 services that these children require. Payment to child care providers
3 for sick days is authorized for a maximum of ten consecutive days;
4 however, a request for more than five sick days is only authorized
5 upon submission of a doctor's note substantiating the illness of the
6 child or parent or guardian. An absence for any reason other than
7 sick days, scheduled holidays or approved child care facility
8 closings is deemed an unexcused absence for which the child care
9 service provider will not receive payment.

10 It is the intent of the bill's sponsors to provide relief to
11 financially-struggling child care providers by basing subsidy
12 payments on enrollment, rather than attendance. This change in
13 payment methodology would offer child care providers, whose
14 businesses have been severely impacted by the novel coronavirus
15 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, with a more reliable source of
16 income. Child care providers, particularly those who offer home-
17 based care, have faced soaring overhead costs associated with
18 smaller class sizes, new cleaning protocols, and mandates for
19 personal protective equipment for child care staff. By changing the
20 methodology used to calculate subsidies to child care providers, the
21 State would offer a financial lifeline to these essential small
22 business owners.