

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5733**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MAY 17, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA**

**District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Timberlake**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DHS to establish quality-based reimbursement system for registered family day care providers participating in Grow NJ Kids.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/9/2021)**

1 **AN ACT** concerning payment rates for registered family day care  
 2 providers participating in the Grow NJ Kids program and  
 3 supplementing P.L.2009, c.299 (C.30:5B-22.1 et seq.)  
 4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
 6 *of New Jersey:*  
 7

8 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the  
 9 contrary, the Commissioner of Human Services shall establish a  
 10 tiered, quality-based reimbursement system for family day care  
 11 providers, registered pursuant to P.L.1987, c.27 (C.30:5B-16 et  
 12 seq.), that participate in the State’s subsidized child care assistance  
 13 program and are rated under the Grow NJ Kids initiative, which  
 14 quality-based reimbursement system shall be substantively the same  
 15 as that for Grow NJ Kids-rated child care centers.

16 b. As used in this section “Grow NJ Kids” means New Jersey’s  
 17 quality rating and improvement system for child care and early  
 18 learning programs, which rates the quality of child care services on  
 19 measurable quality metrics, and provides enhanced reimbursements  
 20 to certain higher- performing providers.

21 c. The commissioner shall apply for such State plan  
 22 amendments or waivers as may be necessary to implement the  
 23 reimbursement system established pursuant to this section and to  
 24 continue to secure federal financial participation for subsidized  
 25 child care programs for qualified low-to-moderate income  
 26 households.  
 27

28 2. The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant to the  
 29 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
 30 seq.) shall adopt such rules and regulations as necessary to  
 31 implement the provisions of this act.  
 32

33 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the second month  
 34 next following the date of enactment, but the Commissioner of  
 35 Human Services may take such anticipatory administrative action in  
 36 advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this  
 37 act.  
 38  
 39

40 **STATEMENT**  
 41

42 This bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to  
 43 establish a tiered, quality-based reimbursement system for  
 44 registered family day care providers that participate in the State’s  
 45 subsidized child care assistance program and are rated under the  
 46 Grow NJ Kids initiative. Grow NJ Kids is the State’s quality rating  
 47 and improvement initiative for child care and early learning  
 48 programs, which reimburses child care providers based on objective

1 quality measures. State-licensed child care centers, school- or  
2 center-based preschool programs, Head Start programs, and  
3 registered family day care providers may request to be evaluated  
4 and rated by Grow NJ Kids, based on the quality of child care  
5 services provided for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Based  
6 upon the outcome of this quality review, the Grow NJ Kids program  
7 may award the provider a three-, four- or five-star rating.

8 New Jersey's subsidized child care assistance program currently  
9 pays a higher rate to child care centers, Head Start programs, and  
10 school- or center-based preschool programs that have a Grow NJ  
11 Kids three-, four-, or five star rating. In calendar year 2021, tiered  
12 incentive payments under the program range from five percent to  
13 twenty percent above the base rate, depending upon the age of the  
14 child receiving care and the facility's star rating. Although family  
15 day care providers can request a Grow NJ Kids evaluation, these  
16 providers are currently ineligible for the program's enhanced  
17 payments to providers earning a three-, four-, or five-star rating. It  
18 is the intent of the bill's sponsor to ensure that registered family day  
19 care providers that offer high-quality care are reimbursed on an  
20 equal basis as child care centers under the Grow NJ Kids program.