

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 180

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

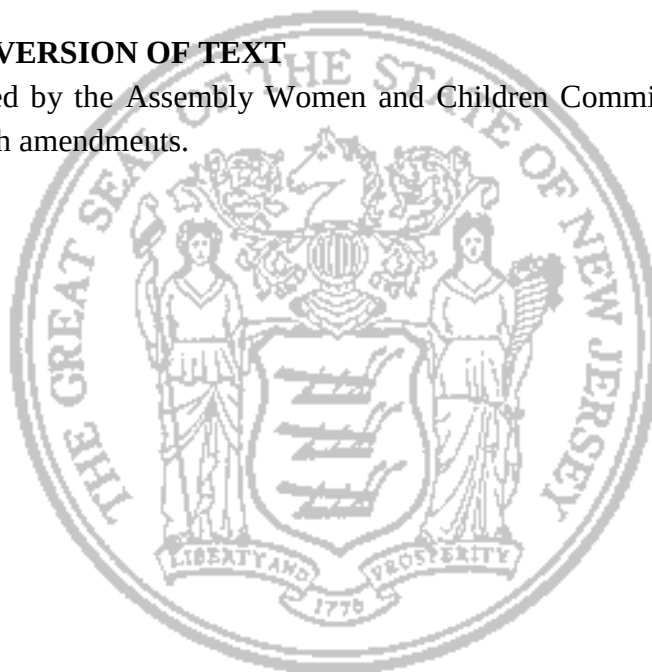
**Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Benson and Assemblywoman
Vainieri Huttie**

SYNOPSIS

Urges passage and enactment of federal “Child Care Is Essential Act.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Women and Children Committee on August 24, 2020, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/24/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** supporting the passage and enactment
 2 of S.3874/H.R.7027, the federal “Child Care Is Essential Act.”
 3

4 **WHEREAS**, Child care providers are at the forefront of the nation’s
 5 response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic,
 6 yet financially, the child care industry has been one of the most
 7 affected industries during the pandemic; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Approximately half of the country’s child care centers
 9 have stayed open throughout this crisis to serve children of
 10 essential workers who serve their communities; and

11 **WHEREAS**, However, faced with reduced enrollment and steep
 12 drops in revenue, child care providers struggle to remain viable
 13 and implement the necessary health and safety precautions to
 14 protect children and child care workers during the pandemic; and

15 **WHEREAS**, About half of child care providers throughout the
 16 country have stopped collecting revenue as a result of the
 17 COVID-19 pandemic, and many providers face the possibility of
 18 permanent closure; and

19 **WHEREAS**, According to an analysis from the Center for American
 20 Progress, the COVID-19 pandemic could lead to a permanent
 21 loss of nearly 4.5 million child care slots nationwide, leaving
 22 millions of families without the child care they need to return to
 23 work; and

24 **WHEREAS**, As communities across the country move toward
 25 reopening, and parents return to work, it is more important than
 26 ever to ensure that child care providers receive federal support in
 27 order to continue to serve their communities by providing child
 28 care services in a safe and healthy manner; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Child care providers need financial assistance to
 30 purchase necessary cleaning supplies, reduce group sizes, adjust
 31 staffing levels, and modify classroom space and materials to
 32 lower the risk of children and child care staff of becoming
 33 infected with COVID-19; and

34 **WHEREAS**, Initial estimates suggest that modifications necessary to
 35 implement social distancing and sanitization requirements to
 36 respond to COVID-19 may increase child care providers’ costs
 37 by thirty percent; and

38 **WHEREAS**, The federal “Child Care Is Essential Act,” S.3874,
 39 sponsored by Senators Murray (D-WA), Smith (D-MN), Warren
 40 (D-MA), Casey (D-PA), and Gillibrand (D-NY), and H.R.7027,
 41 sponsored by Representative DeLauro (D-CT), would provide
 42 funding for grants to support child care providers in order to
 43 stabilize the child care industry; and

44 **WHEREAS**, Specifically, the legislation establishes the Child Care
 45 Stabilization Fund within the U.S. Department of Health and

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AWC committee amendments adopted August 24, 2020.

1 Human Services' Child Care and Development Block Grant
2 (CCDBG) program, and appropriates \$50 billion to the fund for
3 grants to child care providers during and after the COVID-19
4 public health emergency; and

5 **WHEREAS**, The grants would be available to licensed child care
6 centers, home-based child care providers, and family day care
7 homes that were temporarily closed due to the COVID-19
8 pandemic or are currently open as a result of a state's reopening
9 plan; and

10 **WHEREAS**, The amount of the grants would be based on the
11 centers', providers', or homes' pre pandemic operating costs
12 adjusted for the increased costs of providing child care as a result
13 of the pandemic, regardless of whether the centers, providers, or
14 homes had previously received funding through the ¹**[CCDB]**
15 CCDBG¹ program; and

16 **WHEREAS**, The stabilization grants would be used for: personnel
17 costs, including premium pay, employee benefits, and employee
18 salaries; sanitization and cleaning; the purchase of personal
19 protective and other necessary equipment; training and
20 professional development related to health and safety practices;
21 fixed costs, such as mortgage, rent, utilities, facility
22 maintenance, and insurance; mental health supports for children
23 and employees; modifications to child care programs as a result
24 of the COVID-19 pandemic; and other goods and services
25 necessary to maintain or resume operation of a child care
26 program or to maintain the financial viability of child care
27 centers, home-based care providers, or family day care homes;
28 and

29 **WHEREAS**, As a condition of receiving the grants, licensed child
30 care centers, home-based child care providers, and family day
31 care homes would be required to continue to employ and pay
32 their staff, and to provide families with relief from copayments
33 and tuition for the duration of the COVID-19 public ¹health¹
34 emergency; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Child care centers, home-based child care providers,
36 and family day care homes that receive the stabilization grants
37 and reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic would further be
38 required to meet health and safety guidance from state and local
39 authorities and the federal Centers for Disease Control and
40 Prevention; and

41 **WHEREAS**, Grant recipients that remain closed would be required to
42 provide assurances that the child care provider would reopen
43 once the provider is able to implement all health and safety
44 requirements; and

45 **WHEREAS**, The passage and enactment of the federal "Child Care Is
46 Essential Act" is necessary to offset the increased costs of
47 sanitization and other operational modifications needed as a
48 result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the purchase of personal

1 protective equipment, and the training and professional
2 development of staff related to health and safety practices that
3 child care centers, home-based child care providers, and family
4 day care homes must bear in order to reopen and provide safe,
5 affordable, and high quality child care both during and after the
6 pandemic; now, therefore,

7

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
9 *Jersey:*

10

11 1. This House urges the passage and enactment of the federal
12 “Child Care Is Essential Act,” S.3874/ H.R.7027, which is
13 necessary to offset the increased costs of sanitization and other
14 operational modifications needed as a result of the COVID-19
15 pandemic, the purchase of personal protective equipment, and the
16 training and professional development of staff related to health and
17 safety practices that child care centers, home-based child care
18 providers, and family day care homes must bear in order to reopen
19 and provide safe, affordable, and high quality child care both during
20 and after the pandemic.

21

22 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
23 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly, to the
24 Majority and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker
25 and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives,
26 and to every member of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation.