

SENATE, No. 3084

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 29, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Corrado

SYNOPSIS

Provides reimbursement to certain child care entities for expenses related to providing additional hours of child care to school-aged children during 2020-2021 school year; appropriates \$50 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/29/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning child care providers and making an
2 appropriation.

3

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

6

7 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the
8 contrary, and commencing upon the effective date of this act and
9 expiring on June 30, 2021, a child care center, licensed pursuant to
10 section 4 of P.L.1983, c.492 (C.30:5B-4), or a family day care
11 home, registered pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1987, c.27 (C.30:5B-
12 23), that participates in the subsidized child care assistance program
13 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1993, c.46 (C.30:5B-31) during the
14 2020-2021 school year, shall be eligible to receive reimbursement
15 from the Division of Family Development within the Department of
16 Human Services for expenses directly related to providing
17 additional hours of child care services to school-aged children
18 beyond the number of hours allowed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:15-3.3
19 and N.J.A.C. 10:15-10.1.

20 b. Reimbursable expenses shall include, but shall not be limited
21 to:

22 (1) costs related to recruiting, retaining and training new and
23 current staff;

24 (2) facility expenses;

25 (3) salary expenses; and

26 (4) costs related to maintaining the health and safety of
27 expanded programs, including the purchase of personal protective
28 equipment, cleaning supplies and disinfectant.

29 c. The Director of the Division of Family Development shall
30 determine the form, manner, and requirements for operators of
31 licensed child care centers and registered family day care homes to
32 apply for reimbursement for eligible expenses.

33 d. The division shall issue reimbursement to a licensed child
34 care center or a registered family day care home for eligible
35 expenses within thirty business days of receipt of an application.

36

37 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall apply for such
38 State plan amendments or waivers as may be necessary to
39 implement the provisions of this act and to secure any available
40 federal financial participation.

41

42 3. There is appropriated to the Department of Human Services
43 the sum of \$50,000,000 from the portion of the federal block grant
44 funds allocated to the State from the federal "Coronavirus Relief
45 Fund," established pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and
46 Economic Security Act, Pub.L.116-136, for use by the department
47 to reimburse qualified operators of licensed child care centers and
48 registered family day care homes for expenses directly related to

1 providing additional hours of child care services to school-aged
2 children during the 2020-2021 school year, as provided for in
3 section 1 of this act.

4
5 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

6
7
8 STATEMENT

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10 This bill provides financial support to operators of licensed child
11 care centers and registered family day care homes to expand their
12 hours of services for school-aged children who enroll during the
13 2020-2021 school year. Facility expenses that are eligible for
14 reimbursement under this bill include, but are by no means limited
15 to:

- 16 • costs related to recruiting, retaining and training new and
17 current staff;
18 • facility operating expenses;
19 • salary expenses; and
20 • costs related to maintaining the health and safety of
21 expanded programs, including the purchase of personal
22 protective equipment, cleaning supplies and disinfectant.

23 The Director of the Division of Family Development within the
24 Department of Human Services is authorized to determine the form,
25 manner, and requirements that operators of child care centers and
26 family day care homes are required to follow in applying for
27 reimbursement. In addition, the division is to ensure that payment
28 is issued for eligible expenses within 30 business days of receipt of
29 an operator's application.

30 Funding for eligible reimbursements flows from the federal
31 "Coronavirus Relief Fund," established pursuant to the Coronavirus
32 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Pub.L. 116-136.
33 This bill appropriates \$50 million, from the \$2.4 billion in federal
34 funds allocated to New Jersey through the Coronavirus Relief Fund,
35 for expenses incurred by child care facility operators that are
36 directly related to providing additional hours of child care services
37 to school-aged children during the 2020-2021 school year. The bill
38 also authorizes the State to issue reimbursement for such eligible
39 expenses through June 30, 2021, subject to the availability of
40 appropriated funds.

41 Finally, the Commissioner of Human Services is required to
42 apply for any State plan amendments or waivers as may be
43 necessary to implement the provisions of the bill and secure any
44 available federal financial participation for the relevant child care
45 programs.

46 Based on current projections for the 2020-2021 school year, most
47 school-aged children spend between five to six hours in child care
48 on days that they attend school in person. A child attending school

1 virtually typically spends between eight and ten hours in child care
2 per day. Prior to the 2020-2021 school year, the State limited
3 subsidies for child care provided to school-aged children to three
4 hours per day during the school year, permitting child care centers
5 and family day care homes to offer before- and after-school services
6 to school-aged children. However, in response to the changing
7 child care needs of many of the State's working families, the DHS
8 has begun providing child care subsidies for child care services
9 during the school day for school-aged children through the end of
10 calendar year 2020.

11 To accommodate an influx of school-aged children who require
12 additional hours of care during the school year, many operators of
13 licensed child care centers and registered family day care homes
14 have incurred additional personnel and operational expenses.
15 However, the rates paid to operators of child care facilities under
16 the subsidized child care assistance program are insufficient to
17 cover the additional expenses these operators incur in order to
18 provide high-quality child care to the State's working families. It is
19 the intent of the bill's sponsor to provide financial support to these
20 operators only for those expenses directly tied to expanding their
21 hours of service for school-aged children during the 2020-2021
22 school year, and to fund these reimbursements using federal funds
23 allocated to New Jersey through the "Coronavirus Relief Fund."