

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 951
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 1, 2013

Authors: Moran and others

Subject: Child Care Affordability Act

Analyst: Danyell A. Punelli, 651-296-5058

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/.

Overview

This bill is cited as the “Child Care Affordability Act” and makes several changes to child care assistance programs including changing the Basic Sliding Fee child care program from a capped appropriation to a forecasted program, increasing the maximum income exit level for child care assistance eligibility, increasing maximum provider reimbursement rates, and appropriating money for several child care assistance-related programs.

Section

Article 1: Child Care Assistance Programs

- 1 **Short Title.** Specifies this bill may be cited as the “Child Care Affordability Act.”
- 2 **Child care services.** Amends § 119B.02, subd. 1. Removes language limiting the commissioner to distributing funds for child care programs within the limits of available appropriations. Section 11 requires the commissioner of management and budget to include the Basic Sliding Fee child care assistance program in the forecast of state revenues and expenditures.
- 3 **Family move; continued participation.** Amends § 119B.03, subd. 9. Makes conforming changes related to forecasting the Basic Sliding Fee program and specifies the process for counties to administer the child care assistance program when a family receiving assistance moves from one county to another.

Section

- 4 Establishment.** Amends § 119B.035, subd. 1. Makes conforming changes related to forecasting the Basic Sliding Fee program.
- 5 Federal reimbursement.** Amends § 119B.05, subd. 5. Requires the state to maximize federal child care development funds for persons eligible for child care assistance.
- 6 Child care fund plan.** Amends § 119B.08, subd. 3. Makes conforming changes related to forecasting the Basic Sliding Fee program.
- 7 General eligibility requirements for all applicants for child care assistance.** Amends § 119B.09, subd. 1. Increases the maximum exit income for families to be eligible for child care assistance from 67 percent of the state median income to 76 percent of the state median income. Makes this section effective July 1, 2013.
- 8 Temporary ineligibility of military personnel.** Amends § 119B.09, subd. 4a. Makes conforming changes related to forecasting the Basic Sliding Fee program.
- 9 County contributions required.** Amends § 119B.11, subd. 1. Modifies county contributions for child care assistance programs.
- 10 Subsidy restrictions.** Amends § 119B.13, subd. 1. Beginning July 1, 2013, increases maximum provider reimbursement rates.
- 11 Direction to commissioner of management and budget.** Requires the state obligation for the Basic Sliding Fee child care assistance program to be included in the Department of Management and Budget forecast of state revenues and expenditures beginning with the November 2013 forecast.
- 12 Appropriations.**

Subd. 1. Child care resource and referral programs. Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2014 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for grants for child care resource and referral programs. Adds this appropriation to the base.

Subd. 2. Child care services grants. Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2014 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for child care services grants. Adds this appropriation to the base.

Subd. 3. Migrant child care. Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2014 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for migrant child care programs. Adds this appropriation to the base.

Subd. 4. Child care improvement grants. Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2014 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for child care improvement grants. Adds this appropriation to the base.

Subd. 5. Voluntary quality rating system training, coaching, consultation, and supports. Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2014 from the general

Section

fund to the commissioner of human services for the purpose of providing grants to provide statewide child care provider training, coaching, consultation, and supports to prepare for the voluntary quality rating system tool. Specifies this is a onetime appropriation.

- 13** **Repealer.** Repeals Minnesota Statutes, sections 119B.03, subd. 1 (notice of allocation), 2 (waiting list), 4 (funding priority), 5 (review of use of funds; reallocation), 6 (allocation formula), 6a (allocation due to increased funding), 6b (allocation due to decreased funding), and 8 (guaranteed floor); and 119B.09, subd. 3 (priorities; allocations).

Article 2: Conforming Changes

- 1** **Contractual agreements with tribes.** Amends § 119B.02, subd. 2. Makes conforming changes related to forecasting the child care assistance programs.
- 2** **Eligible participants.** Amends § 119B.05, subd. 1. Makes conforming changes related to forecasting the child care assistance programs.
- 3** **Relationship to current law.** Amends § 119B.231, subd. 5. Makes conforming changes related to forecasting the child care assistance programs.
- 4** **Timing and disposition of penalty and case disallowance funds.** Amends § 256.017, subd. 9. Makes conforming changes related to forecasting the child care assistance programs.
- 5** **Repealer.** Repeals Minnesota Statutes, § 119B.011, subd. 20a (transition year extension families).