

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No.
3 531 entitled “An act relating to Vermont’s child care and early learning
4 system” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
5 that the bill be amended as follows:

6 First: By inserting a new Sec. 5a after Sec. 5 (Bright Futures Information
7 System; Modernization Plan) to read:

8 Sec. 5a. BRIGHT FUTURES INFORMATION SYSTEM;
9 MODERNIZATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

10 (a) In fiscal year 2020, \$1,000,000.00 is appropriated from the General
11 Fund to the Department for Children and Families’ Child Development
12 Division to begin implementation of the plan developed pursuant to Sec. 5 of
13 this act.

14 (b) Any unused funds appropriated pursuant to Sec. 3 of this act shall be
15 reserved to begin implementation of the plan developed pursuant to Sec. 5 of
16 this act.

17 Second: By inserting striking out Sec. 6 (Student Loan Repayment
18 Assistance) and Sec. 7 (Child Care and Early Learning Workforce Scholarship)
19 in their entirety and inserting new Secs. 6 and 7 in lieu thereof as follows:

20 Sec. 6. 33 V.S.A. § chapter 35, subchapter 5 is added to read:

21 Subchapter 5. Support for Child Care and Early Learning Workforce

1 § 3533. STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE

2 (a)(1) There is established a student loan repayment assistance program
3 administered by the Division for the purpose of providing student loan
4 repayment assistance to any individual employed by a regulated, privately
5 operated center-based child care program or family child care home.

6 (2) An eligible individual shall:

7 (A) work in a privately operated center-based child care program or
8 family child care home that is regulated by the Division for at least an average
9 of 30 hours per week for 48 weeks of the year;

10 (B) receive an annual salary of not more than \$40,000.00; and

11 (C) have acquired credits in early childhood development or which
12 are related directly to working with children birth through eight years of age.

13 (3) To participate in the program set forth in this section, an eligible
14 individual shall submit to the Division documentation expressing the
15 individual's intent to work in a regulated, privately operated center-based child
16 care program or family child care home for at least the following 12 months.

17 A participant may receive up to \$2,000.00 annually in student loan repayment
18 assistance, which shall be distributed by the Division in two allotments. The
19 Division shall distribute at least half of the individual's total annual benefit
20 after the individual has completed six months of employment in accordance
21 with the program. The remainder of an individual's total annual benefit shall

1 be distributed by the Division after the individual has completed the 12th
2 month of employment in accordance with the program.

3 (b)(1) The Division shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines
4 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

5 (2) Funds used from this appropriation shall be expended for repayment
6 of student loans. Student loan repayments shall be available pursuant to this
7 section on a first-come, first-served basis until the appropriation is depleted.

8 (c) Otherwise eligible individuals with access to alternative loan
9 forgiveness or loan repayment programs shall not be considered eligible for
10 repayment assistance under this section.

11 (d) An individual shall not simultaneously participate in the student loan
12 repayment assistance program set forth in this section and the scholarship
13 program set forth section 3534 of this title.

14 § 3534. CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING WORKFORCE

15 SCHOLARSHIP

16 (a) There is established a need-based scholarship program for individuals
17 employed by a regulated, privately operated center-based child care program or
18 family child care home while acquiring credits in early childhood development
19 or which are related directly to working with children birth through eight years
20 of age.

1 (b) The Division shall contract for the administration of the program set
2 forth in subsection (a) of this section and adopt policies, procedures, and
3 guidelines necessary for its implementation. Scholarships distributed pursuant
4 to this section shall be available on a first-come, first-served basis until any
5 designated funds are depleted.

6 (c) An individual shall not simultaneously participate in the scholarship
7 program set forth in this section and the student loan repayment assistance
8 program set forth in section 3533 of this title.

9 Sec. 7. APPROPRIATIONS; COLLEGE LOAN REPAYMENT

10 ASSISTANCE; CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING

11 WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP

12 (a)(1) In fiscal year 2020, \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the General
13 Fund to the Department for Children and Families' Child Development
14 Division for the student loan repayment assistance program established
15 pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 3533.

16 (2) In fiscal year 2020, \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the General
17 Fund to the Department for Children and Families' Child Development
18 Division for the child care and early learning scholarship program established
19 pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 3534.

20 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that appropriations that meet or
21 exceed each of the amounts appropriated in fiscal year 2020 pursuant to

1 subdivisions (a)(1) and (2) of this section be made in fiscal years 2021 through
2 2024.

3 Third: Before Sec. 8 to insert a readers' assistance heading to read as
4 follows:

5 * * * Evaluation of Expenditures and Programs * * *

6 Fourth: By striking out Sec. 8 (Report; Evaluation of Expenditures and
7 Programs) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof as follows:

8 Sec. 8. REPORT; EVALUATION OF EXPENDITURES AND PROGRAMS

9 On or before January 1, 2024, the Commissioner for Children and Families,
10 in consultation with stakeholders, shall submit a report to the House
11 Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and
12 Welfare:

13 (1) evaluating the effectiveness of the expenditure in the Child Care
14 Financial Assistance Program set forth in Sec. 3 of this act, the student loan
15 repayment program set forth in 33 V.S.A. § 3533, and the scholarship program
16 set forth in 33 V.S.A. § 3534;

17 (2) making recommendations as to whether the expenditures and
18 programs in Sec. 3 of this act and in 33 V.S.A. §§ 3533-3534 should be
19 continued and if so, the appropriate funding amount and source; and

1 (3) evaluating how the expenditures and programs in Sec. 3 of this act
2 and in 33 V.S.A. §§ 3533-3534 contribute to Vermont’s children and young
3 people reaching their potential pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2311.

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8 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE