

1 H.171
2 Introduced by Representatives Brumsted of Shelburne, James of Manchester,
3 Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Marcotte of Coventry, Townsend of
4 South Burlington, Wood of Waterbury, Yacovone of
5 Morristown, Anthony of Barre City, Austin of Colchester,
6 Batchelor of Derby, Birong of Vergennes, Black of Essex,
7 Bluemle of Burlington, Bongartz of Manchester, Bos-Lun of
8 Westminster, Brady of Williston, Briglin of Thetford, Brown of
9 Richmond, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor,
10 Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Chase of Colchester, Christie of
11 Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Coffey of Guilford, Colburn of
12 Burlington, Colston of Winooski, Conlon of Cornwall,
13 Copeland Hanzas of Bradford, Cordes of Lincoln, Dolan of
14 Essex, Dolan of Waitsfield, Donnally of Hyde Park, Durfee of
15 Shaftsbury, Elder of Starksboro, Emmons of Springfield,
16 Gannon of Wilmington, Goldman of Rockingham, Goslant of
17 Northfield, Grad of Moretown, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hooper of
18 Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex, Howard
19 of Rutland City, Jerome of Brandon, Killacky of South
20 Burlington, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, LaLonde of South
21 Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lefebvre of Newark,

1 Lippert of Hinesburg, Long of Newfane, Masland of Thetford,
2 McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCullough of Williston,
3 McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of
4 Milton, Mrowicki of Putney, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington,
5 Nicoll of Ludlow, Nigro of Bennington, Norris of Sheldon,
6 Noyes of Wolcott, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City,
7 Pajala of Londonderry, Partridge of Windham, Patt of
8 Worcester, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington,
9 Redmond of Essex, Rosenquist of Georgia, Savage of Swanton,
10 Scheu of Middlebury, Scheuermann of Stowe, Seymour of
11 Sutton, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sims of Craftsbury, Small of
12 Winooski, Smith of New Haven, Squirrell of Underhill,
13 Stebbins of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Till of Jericho,
14 Toleno of Brattleboro, Troiano of Stannard, Vyhovsky of
15 Essex, Walz of Barre City, Webb of Shelburne, White of
16 Bethel, White of Hartford, Whitman of Bennington, and
17 Yantachka of Charlotte

18 Referred to Committee on

19 Date:

20 Subject: Human services; child care; financial assistance; workforce

1 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to: (1) expand
2 the eligibility of the Child Care Financial Assistance Program; (2) appropriate
3 funds for the implementation of the Bright Futures Information System
4 modernization plan; (3) establish scholarships and student loan repayment
5 assistance programs for existing and prospective members of the child care
6 workforce; (4) require the completion of studies on child care financing and
7 governance; and (5) establish an Early Care and Education Governance and
8 Administration Advisory Committee.

9 An act relating to the governance and financing of Vermont's child care
10 system

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 * * * Findings and Legislative Intent * * *

13 Sec. 1. FINDINGS AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT

14 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

15 (1) Child care is an essential component of Vermont's economy.

16 (2) Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, three out of five of Vermont's
17 youngest children did not have access to the amount of child care needed by
18 their families.

1 (3) According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and
2 Workforce, early childhood educators are the lowest paid college graduates of
3 any degree program.

4 (4) The Vermont Early Care and Learning Dividend Study found that
5 increased investment in early care and education, as described in the
6 recommendations of Vermont’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High-
7 Quality, Affordable Child Care, would yield \$3.08 for every additional dollar
8 invested into the system.

9 (5) The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated already pressing
10 challenges, making it even harder for families to find affordable, high-quality
11 child care and more difficult for early childhood education programs to find
12 and retain qualified educators.

13 (6) The Council for a Strong America found in a national child care
14 economic study that that the U.S. economy loses \$57 billion annually due to
15 child care challenges.

16 (7) The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation found that high-quality
17 child care is a powerful two-generation workforce development strategy that
18 strengthens today’s workforce and puts children on the path to develop well
19 and enter kindergarten ready to thrive in school, work, and life.

20 (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the General Assembly that immediate
21 investments are necessary to support Vermont’s economy, ensure that all

1 families with young children have affordable access to high-quality early
2 childhood education, and that Vermont's early childhood educators, the
3 backbone of our economy, are fairly compensated and well supported.

4 * * * Child Care Financial Assistance Program * * *

5 Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 3512 is amended to read:

6 § 3512. CHILD CARE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;

7 ELIGIBILITY

8 (a)(1) The Child Care Financial Assistance Program is established to
9 subsidize, to the extent that funds permit, the costs of child care for families
10 that need child care services in order to obtain employment, to retain
11 employment, ~~or to obtain training leading to employment~~ Families seeking
employment shall be
12 entitled to participate in the Program for up to three months and the
13 Commissioner may further extend that period.

14 (2) The subsidy authorized by this subsection shall be ~~on a sliding scale~~
15 ~~basis. The scale shall be~~ established by the Commissioner, by rule, and shall
16 bear a reasonable relationship to income, ~~and~~ family size. Families shall be found
eligible using an income eligibility scale based on the federal poverty level and
adjusted for the size of the family and accordingly assigned a set co-payment. The
17 lower limit of
18 the ~~fee~~ eligibility scale shall include families whose gross income is up to and
including
19 ~~100~~ 150 percent of the current federal poverty guidelines. The upper income
20 limit of the ~~fee~~ eligibility scale shall be ~~neither not less than 200~~ 350 percent of the
current

Commented [RGM1]: Changes to section 2 are intended to align language with the approach being used in the Governor's 5 year plan. Please also reference effective date of this section at the end of the bill.

Commented [RGM2]: The administration suggests eliminating this change from the bill and adding it to the financing study.
This language could be interpreted to expand eligibility for this program to ALL Vermont age-eligible children.

Commented [RGM3]: The administration suggests leaving this language in law until the 2009 Rule can be amended to include this time period.

~~24~~ federal poverty guidelines ~~not more than 100 percent of the State median~~

1 ~~income~~, adjusted for the size of the family. The scale shall be structured so
2 that it ~~encourages~~ supports employment. The co-payment shall be set using the Federal
3 Poverty Level, with considerations to the Livable Wage and the Basic Needs Budget. If the
4 federal poverty guidelines
5 decrease in a given year, the Division shall maintain the previous year's federal
6 poverty guidelines for the purpose of determining eligibility and benefit
7 amount under this subsection.

8 * * *

9 Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 3512 is amended to read:

10 § 3512. CHILD CARE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;

11 ELIGIBILITY

12 (a)(1) The Child Care Financial Assistance Program is established to
13 subsidize, to the extent that funds permit, the costs of child care for families
14 that need child care services in order to obtain employment, to retain
15 employment, to obtain training leading to employment, or to support the
16 healthy development of their children.

17 * * *

18 (4) ~~After September 30, 2021, a~~ A regulated center-based child care
19 program or family child care home as defined by the Department in rule shall

Commented [RGM4]: This section is no longer needed, change is incorporated into section 2 and the corresponding effective date for section 2)

1 not receive funds pursuant to this subsection that are in excess of the usual and
2 customary rate for services at the center-based child care program or family
3 child care home.

13 * * *

14 ~~Sec. 5. 33 V.S.A. § 3514 is amended to read:~~

15 ~~§ 3514. PAYMENT TO PROVIDERS~~

16 ~~(a) The Commissioner shall establish a payment schedule for purposes of~~
17 ~~reimbursing providers for full or part time child care services rendered to~~
18 ~~families who participate in the programs established under section 3512 or~~
19 ~~3513 of this title. Payments established under this section shall reflect the~~
20 ~~following considerations: whether the provider operates a licensed child care~~
21 ~~facility or a registered family child care home regulated child care program, the~~

Commented [RGM5]: This section is not needed, as eligibility service needs are defined in Rule. The only service need on this list that is not currently in Rule is someone who already has a bachelor-level degree and is pursuing additional higher education or training. CDD can add this service need through the rule-making process.

Commented [RGM6]: The administration suggests striking this section from the bill and not amending 33 V.S.A. § 3514 at this time. Rather, charge BBF with a study of the ramifications (on both families eligible for subsidy, and those not eligible during the transition years to a universal system) of the policy in this section:

1. Using True Cost of Care instead of the Market Rate Survey as the benchmark for setting CCFAP rates.
2. Determining how True Cost of Care methodology would define "other fields" when considering "early childhood educator compensation that is commensurate with peers"
3. Paying based on enrollment and eliminating the ability to pay based on attendance.

Commented [RGM7]: The OR in this sentence is pivotal. The rates are different for licensed vs. registered and the administration is concerned this language change will eliminate our flexibility to maintain two rate structures.

1 ~~type of service provided, and the cost of providing the service and the~~
2 ~~prevailing market rate for comparable service, including early childhood~~
3 ~~educator compensation that is commensurate with peers in other fields.~~
4 ~~Payments shall be based on enrollment status or any other basis agreed to by~~
5 ~~the provider and the Division.~~

6 * * *

Commented [RGM8]: The administration suggests eliminating this section.
1.If the legislature enacts CCFAP policy changes, by federal law and rule, the CCDF state administrator must amend the CCDF state plan to reflect those changes within 60 days of implementation.
2.The policies in this section are reflected in other sections of this bill or, are not aligned with the approach in the Governor's 5-yr plan (#2)

1 — ~~Sec. 7. APPROPRIATION AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT; CHILD CARE~~
2 — ~~FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM~~

3 — ~~(a) In fiscal year 2022, \$4,750,004.00 is appropriated from the General~~
4 — ~~Fund to the Department for Children and Families' Child Development~~
5 — ~~Division above the fiscal year 2021 base appropriation for the purpose of~~
6 — ~~implementing Secs. 2 and 3 of this act.~~

7 — ~~(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that:~~

8 — ~~(1) an appropriation that meets or exceeds the amount distributed in~~
9 — ~~fiscal year 2022 be made in fiscal years 2023 through 2026 to progressively~~
10 — ~~adjust the upper income limit of the Child Care Financial Assistance Program~~
11 — ~~fee scale each year; and~~

12 — ~~(2) by fiscal year 2026, a family shall spend not more than ten percent of~~
13 — ~~their gross annual income on child care.~~

14 — ~~*** Bright Futures Information System ***~~

15 — ~~Sec. 8. BRIGHT FUTURES INFORMATION SYSTEM;~~
16 — ~~MODERNIZATION PLAN~~

17 — ~~In fiscal year 2022, \$4,700,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to~~
18 — ~~the Department for Children and Families' Child Development Division for the~~
19 — ~~purpose of completing implementation of the Bright Futures Information~~
20 — ~~System modernization plan.~~

Commented [RGM9]: The administration suggests eliminating this language. It is not aligned with the funding needed to implement year 3 of the Governor's plan. The Governor's proposed budget reflects the funding needed and provides a vehicle for legislative consideration.

Commented [RGM10]: The administration suggests striking this section from the bill. Rather, charge BBF with a study of:

1. the ramifications of the policy goal of a family shall spend not more than ten percent of their gross annual income on child care.
2. The recommended phasing approach to financing and operationalizing the policy goal.

Commented [RGM11]: The administration suggests eliminating this language. It is not aligned with the funding needed to implement all modules of the new CDDIS. The Governor's proposed budget reflects the funding needed and directs that funding to ADS, providing a vehicle for legislative consideration.

1 * * * Workforce Supports * * *

2 Sec. 9. 33 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 5 is added to read:

3 Subchapter 5. Workforce

4 § 3541. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD

5 PROVIDERS

(T h e T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Initiative is a national, evidence-based strategy that creates access to higher education for teachers, directors and family child care providers working with young children in out-of-home settings. T.E.A.C.H. provides comprehensive scholarships to enable these early educators to take coursework leading to credentials and degrees by making it possible for them to afford both the time and expense of going to school.

6 (b) The Division shall contract with the organization Licensed to offer the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® VERMONT Scholarship Project
7 for the administration of need-based scholarships for individuals employed by a regulated, privately operated program while working on coursework leading to credentials and degrees directly related to working with children from birth to age 8.Should the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® VERMONT program cease to exist in Vermont, the Division shall determine the appropriate mechanism for ensuring scholarships remain available for incumbent early childhood professionals.
Scholarships distributed pursuant

8 to this section shall be available on a first-come, first-served basis until any
9 appropriated funds are depleted.

10 (c) An individual shall not simultaneously participate in the scholarship
11 program set forth in this section and the student loan repayment assistance
12 program set forth in section 3543 of this title.

13 § 3542. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PROSPECTIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD

14 PROVIDERS

Commented [MRG12]: The administration notes the need for funding t be allocated or set aside (and a position allocated should they be administered within state government) for the capacity to administer these programs.

1 (a)(1) There is established a scholarship program for individuals pursuing a
2 college or graduate degree in early childhood education or early childhood
3 special education. The scholarship program shall provide financial assistance
4 up to the full cost of tuition for an eligible individual.

5 (2) An eligible individual shall:

6 (A) attend a Vermont college or university at least part-time;

7 (B) be pursuing an associates, bachelor's or master's degree in early
8 childhood education or early childhood special education; and

9 (C) commit to working in early childhood education in Vermont for
10 at least three years after completion of their degree program.

11 (b) ~~The Department~~ VSAC shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines
12 necessary for implementation of the program described in subsection (a) of this
13 section. Scholarships distributed pursuant to this section shall be available on
14 a first-come, first-served basis until any appropriated funds are depleted.

15 (c) An individual shall not simultaneously participate in the scholarship
16 program set forth in this section and the student loan repayment assistance
17 program set forth in section 3543 of this title.

18 § 3543. STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE

19 (a)(1) There is established a student loan repayment assistance program for
20 the purpose of providing student loan repayment assistance to any individual

Commented [RGM13]: The VSAC organization has the structure, capacity and expertise to run this scholarship program for the prospective workforce.

1 employed by a regulated, privately operated center-based child care program or
2 family child care home.

3 (2) An eligible individual shall:

4 (A) work in a privately operated center-based child care program as a
5 lead or associate teacher or in a family child care home that is regulated by the
6 Division for at least an average of 30 hours per week for 48 weeks of the year;

7 (B) receive an annual salary of not more than \$60,000.00; and

8 (C) have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in early childhood
9 education or early childhood special education within the preceding five years.

10 (3) To participate in the program set forth in this section, an eligible
11 individual shall submit to ~~the Department for Children and Families~~
12 documentation expressing the individual's intent to work in a regulated,
13 privately operated center-based child care program or family child care home
14 for at least the following 12 months. A participant may receive up to
15 \$4,500.00 annually in student loan repayment assistance, which shall be
16 distributed by ~~the Department~~ in four allotments. ~~The Department~~ shall
17 distribute at least one-quarter of the individual's total annual benefit after the
18 individual has completed three months of employment in accordance with the
19 program. The remainder of an individual's total annual benefit shall be
20 distributed by ~~the Department~~ every three months after the initial payment.

1 ~~(b)(1) The Department shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines~~
2 ~~necessary to implement the provisions of this section.~~

Commented [RGM14]: The administration suggests studying the appropriate entity to administer a loan forgiveness program and the amount allocated to said program.

3 (2) Funds appropriated for this program shall be expended for
4 repayment of student loans. Student loan repayments shall be available
5 pursuant to this section on a first-come, first-served basis until appropriated
6 funds are depleted.

7 (3) An individual shall not simultaneously participate in the student loan
8 repayment assistance program set forth in this section and either of the
9 scholarship programs set forth in section 3541 or 3542 of this title.

10 ~~Sec. 10. APPROPRIATION AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT; EARLY~~
11 ~~CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE PROGRAMS~~

12 ~~(a)(1) In fiscal year 2022, \$300,000.00 is appropriated from the General~~
13 ~~Fund to the Department for Children and Families' Child Development~~
14 ~~Division for the Current Early Childhood Provider Scholarship Program~~
15 ~~established pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 3541.~~

Commented [MRG15]: The administration suggests eliminating this language. The Governor's proposed budget includes \$150,000 in the CCFAP base for this purpose.

16 ~~(2) In fiscal year 2022, \$200,000.00 is appropriated from the General~~
17 ~~Fund to the Department for Children and Families for the Prospective Early~~
18 ~~Childhood Provider Scholarship Program established pursuant to 33 V.S.A.~~
19 ~~§ 3542.~~

Commented [MRG16]: The administration suggests including the identification of the allocation needed and funding source in the study committee. Establishment of the program can take place in FY22 while funding and source are identified.

1 (3) ~~In fiscal year 2022, \$2,000,000.00 is appropriated from the General~~
2 ~~Fund to the Department for Children and Families for the student loan~~
3 ~~repayment assistance program established pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 3543.~~
4 ~~(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that appropriations that meet or~~
5 ~~exceed each of the amounts appropriated in fiscal year 2022 pursuant to~~
6 ~~subdivisions (a)(1) through (3) of this section be made in fiscal years 2023~~
7 ~~through 2026.~~

8 Sec. 11. REPEALS

9 (a) 33 V.S.A. § 3541(c) (reference to student loan repayment assistance
10 program) is repealed on July 1, 2026.

11 (b) 33 V.S.A. § 3542 (scholarships for prospective early childhood
12 providers) is repealed on July 1, 2026.

13 (c) 33 V.S.A. § 3543 (student loan repayment assistance program) is
14 repealed on July 1, 2026.

15 * * * Studies and Reports * * *

16 Sec. 12. EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION GOVERNANCE STUDY

17 (a) In order to ensure that Vermont's governance for early childhood
18 education effectively meets the needs of children, families, and providers,
19 Building Bright Futures Council shall undertake an analysis that evaluates and makes
20 recommendations on the following:

Commented [MRG17]: The administration suggests studying the appropriate entity to administer a loan forgiveness program and the amount allocated to said program.

- 1 (1) existing early childhood education governance and administrative
2 stakeholders and structures;
- 3 (2) early childhood education governance and administrative functions
4 that are currently not staffed or understaffed;
- 5 (3) emerging system needs;
- 6 (4) stakeholder engagement in decision-making processes and State plan
7 development;
- 8 (5) mechanisms to strengthen system oversight and leverage current
9 system strengths;
- 10 (6) identification of existing needs and challenges; and
- 11 (7) ensuring that an antiracist approach is utilized in modifying existing
12 policies and procedures and creating new policies and procedures.
- 13 (b) On or before January 15, 2023, Building Bright Futures shall submit the
14 analysis and recommendations required pursuant to this section to the General
15 Assembly.
- 16 ~~(c) Building Bright Futures shall consult the Early Care and Education~~
17 ~~Advisory Committee, established in Sec. 14 of this act, in preparing the~~
18 ~~analysis and recommendations required pursuant to this section.~~
- 19 (d)(1) In fiscal year 2022, \$150,000.00 is appropriated from the General
20 Fund to Building Bright Futures for the purpose of implementing this section.

1 (2) Building Bright Futures may use appropriated funds to cover
2 administrative needs associated with the study and to contract a consultant with
3 experience in organizational or administrative governance, administration, or
4 system management experience.

5 (e) As used in this section, “early care and education” means programming
6 provided at a center-based child care program or family child care home
7 regulated by the Department for Children and Families’ Child Development
8 Division that serves children from birth through five years of age.

21 Sec. 13. **CHILD CARE EXPANSION AND COST STUDY**

19 (a) There is created a committee to study: (1) expanding
20 the eligibility of the Child Care Financial Assistance Program; (2) establishing
21 scholarships and student loan repayment
22 assistance programs for existing and prospective members of the child care
23 workforce; (3) The costs associated with the various policy and program
24 proposals

1 ~~Sec. 13. EARLY CHILDHOOD FINANCING STUDY~~

2 ~~(a) On or before January 15, 2022, the State Treasurer, Auditor, Joint Fiscal~~
3 ~~Office, Commissioner of Finance, and Commissioner of Taxes shall deliver to~~
4 ~~the General Assembly a comprehensive report identifying and determining the~~
5 ~~feasibility of implementing a stable, long term funding source to finance an~~
6 ~~affordable, high quality early child care system given child care’s role in~~
7 ~~postpandemic stimulus and long term economic development. The State~~
8 ~~Treasurer, Auditor, Joint Fiscal Office, Commissioner of Finance, and~~

Commented [RGM18]: The administration suggests studying the policy changes proposed in this bill to understand the impact of these policy changes on families, providers, businesses and taxpayers, including cost.

Commented [RGM19]: The administration suggests the policy proposal in this bill needs to be studied, including understanding the cost prior to completing a study to determine a financing mechanism.

9 ~~Commissioner of Taxes shall consider stable, ongoing funding necessary to~~
10 ~~achieve an early care and education system in which:~~
11 ~~(1) a family does not spend more than 10 percent of its gross annual~~
12 ~~income on child care;~~

1 ~~(2) child care providers receive compensation on par with their peers in~~
2 ~~other fields;~~

3 ~~(3) all Vermont children below five years of age have access to a child~~
4 ~~care space that meets their needs; and~~

5 ~~(4) early care and education programs are able to support families'~~
6 ~~access to coordinated services.~~

7 ~~(b) The report required pursuant to this section shall determine:~~

8 ~~(1) a stable, long term funding source to fund the system;~~

9 ~~(2) the optimum design of a stable, long term funding source;~~

10 ~~(3) the feasibility of such a stable, long term funding source, in terms of~~
11 ~~sustainability, equity, and appropriateness; and~~

12 ~~(4) the feasibility of dedicating revenue from a stable, long term funding~~
13 ~~source to a dedicated Early Care and Education Fund and the most efficient~~
14 ~~methods of administering distribution of the Fund.~~

15 ~~(c) The Treasurer, Auditor, Joint Fiscal Office, and Tax Commissioner~~
16 ~~shall include input from State or contracted economists and analysts, or both,~~
17 ~~including an economist or analyst with expertise specifically related to early~~
18 ~~care and education issues.~~

19 ~~(d)(1) As part of the report, the Treasurer, Auditor, Joint Fiscal Office,~~
20 ~~Commissioner of Finance, Commissioner of Taxes, and contracted advisors~~
21 ~~shall produce a consensus evaluation of the economic impact of investment in~~

1 ~~high quality, affordable child care for children from birth through five years of~~
2 ~~age through a stable, long-term funding source. The consensus evaluation~~
3 ~~shall include both microeconomic and macroeconomic simulations, looking at~~
4 ~~individual and economywide impacts and responses, and the allocation of such~~
5 ~~impacts across economic sectors, including direct, indirect, and induced~~
6 ~~results.~~

7 ~~(2) Data and tools used to produce the consensus evaluation shall be~~
8 ~~employed, including Moody's Analytics and customized Moody's online~~
9 ~~Vermont models, as well as dynamic and other input and output based~~
10 ~~models, including those from Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REM),~~
11 ~~Regional Dynamics, Inc. (REDYN), IMPLAN, and other models as advised.~~

12 ~~(3) The consensus evaluation shall consider:~~

13 ~~(A) demographic impacts;~~

14 ~~(B) workforce impacts;~~

15 ~~(C) warnings, savings, and multiplier effects for:~~

16 ~~(i) parents or guardians;~~

17 ~~(ii) child care providers;~~

18 ~~(iii) early care and education programs;~~

19 ~~(iv) entities providing supplies and services for early care~~

20 ~~(v) social service benefits and~~

21 ~~education programs; and~~

Commented [MRG20]: Other benefit programs (such as Reach Up, SNAP, HUD, etc.) are all interconnected. When we make changes in one program it impacts others (benefits cliff as an example)

1 ~~_____ (v) children receiving child care as future members of the~~
2 ~~_____ workforce;~~
3 ~~_____ (D) general business earnings and multipliers stemming from~~
4 ~~_____ increased workforce participation;~~
5 ~~_____ (E) community development;~~
6 ~~_____ (F) increased tax revenue; and~~
7 ~~_____ (G) social service savings, including:~~
8 ~~_____ (i) health care;~~
9 ~~_____ (ii) education; and~~
10 ~~_____ (iii) corrections.~~
11 ~~_____ (4) The consensus evaluation shall present findings on:~~
12 ~~_____ (A) the efficacy of the infrastructure investment in high quality,~~
13 ~~_____ affordable early care and education as a short term stimulus to enhance~~
14 ~~_____ Vermont's economic well being in the immediate aftermath of the COVID-19~~
15 ~~_____ pandemic; and~~
16 ~~_____ (B) the efficacy of the infrastructure investment in high quality,~~
17 ~~_____ affordable early care and education as a long term economic development tool~~
18 ~~_____ and, to the extent possible, to quantify long term return on investments.~~
19 ~~_____ (c) The Secretary of Administration shall be allowed to accept~~
20 ~~_____ philanthropic contributions to underwrite the cost of hiring economists and~~

1 ~~analysts to provide expertise specific to early care and education in accordance~~
2 ~~with this section.~~

3 ~~(f) As used in this section, "early care and education" means programming~~
4 ~~provided at a center based child care program or family child care home~~
5 ~~regulated by the Department for Children and Families' Child Development~~
6 ~~Division that serves children from birth through five years of age.~~

7 * * * Early Care and Education Governance and Administration

8 Advisory Commission * * *

9 Sec. 14. EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION GOVERNANCE AND

10 ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11 (a) ~~Creation. There is created the Early Care and Education Governance~~
12 ~~and Administration Advisory Committee to advise the Department for~~
13 ~~Children and Families' Child Development Division on all services pertaining~~
14 ~~to child care and early education regulation, including:~~

15 (1) ~~child care licensing rules, policies, and procedures;~~

16 (2) ~~administration of the early childhood education system;~~

17 (3) ~~Child Care Financial Assistance Program rules, policies, procedures,~~
18 ~~and plans;~~

19 (4) ~~child care provider credentialing and compensation standards;~~

20 (5) ~~early childhood care and education curricula standards, including~~
21 ~~antiracist early childhood education practices and standards; and~~

Commented [RGM21]: The administration suggests Act 104 charges BBF with these purposes and the formation of this committee is duplicative.

1 ~~(6) the early care and education governance and administration study~~
2 ~~pursuant to Sec. 12 of this act.~~

3 ~~(b) Membership. The Committee members shall be appointed by Building~~
4 ~~Bright Futures and shall be composed of the following members:~~

5 ~~(1) a parent or caregiver from a large town or city;~~
6 ~~(2) a parent or caregiver from a rural community;~~
7 ~~(3) a family child care home provider;~~
8 ~~(4) a center-based child care and preschool program provider;~~
9 ~~(5) a Head Start family policy advisory council member;~~
10 ~~(6) a Head Start early childhood provider or program director;~~
11 ~~(7) a representative of the Vermont Association for the Education of~~
12 ~~Young Children;~~

13 ~~(8) a representative of the Vermont Early Childhood Education Higher~~
14 ~~Education Consortium;~~

15 ~~(9) a representative of Vermont's Parent Child Center Network;~~
16 ~~(10) a representative of a community child care resource agency;~~
17 ~~(11) a provider of Children's Integrated Services;~~
18 ~~(12) a provider of early childhood special education services;~~
19 ~~(13) a regional Universal Pre-K Coordinator;~~
20 ~~(14) a pediatrician; and~~
21 ~~(15) a community member.~~

1 ~~(c) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative assistance of~~
2 ~~Building Bright Futures and the technical and legal assistance of the~~
3 ~~Department for Children and Families' Child Development Division.~~
4 ~~(d) Report. Annually, on or before January 15, the Committee shall submit~~
5 ~~a written report to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate~~
6 ~~Committee on Health and Welfare with a summary of its annual activities,~~
7 ~~findings, and any recommendations for legislative action.~~
8 ~~(e) Meetings:~~
9 ~~(1) Building Bright Futures shall call the first meeting of the Committee~~
10 ~~to occur on or before September 1, 2021.~~
11 ~~(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the~~
12 ~~first meeting.~~
13 ~~(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.~~
14 ~~(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 1, 2024.~~
15 ~~(f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Committee~~
16 ~~shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as~~
17 ~~permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings annually.~~
18 ~~These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to Building Bright~~
19 ~~Futures.~~
20 ~~(g) Appropriation. In fiscal year 2022, \$25,000.00 is appropriated from the~~
21 ~~General Fund to Building Bright Futures.~~

1 ~~(h) Definition. As used in this section, “early care and education” means~~
2 ~~programming provided at a center-based child care program or family child~~
3 ~~care home regulated by the Department for Children and Families’ Child~~
4 ~~Development Division that serves children from birth through five years of~~
5 ~~age.~~

6 * * * Effective Dates * * *

7 Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATES

8 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021, except that Sec. 2 (Child Care
9 Financial Assistance Program; eligibility) shall take effect upon completion of the
CDDIS CCFAP module, but no sooner than September 25, 2021 and no later than
10 7/1/2023. Sec. 4 (Child Care

Financial Assistance Program; eligibility) shall take effect on July 1, 2022.