

House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 171

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

The House concurs in the Senate proposal of amendment with further amendment thereto as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 10, recommendations; American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; Child Care Development Block Grant, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 10 to read as follows:

Sec. 10. RECOMMENDATIONS; AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021; CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT; CHILD CARE STABILIZATION GRANTS

(a) On or before September 1, 2021, the Department for Children and Families, in consultation with stakeholders that include individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color, shall submit a plan on the proposed use of the Child Care Development Block Grant and the Child Care Stabilization Grants, in excess of monies specifically allocated from the Child Care Stabilization Grants in fiscal year 2022 for the child care workforce support programs established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 5, received by the State pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Pub. L. No. 117-2, for review and acceptance by the Joint Fiscal Committee at their September 2021 meeting. The plan shall concurrently be provided to the Chairs of the House Committee on Human Services and of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare for input prior to action by the Joint Fiscal Committee. To the extent permissible, the plan shall consider the following priorities but need not be limited to consideration of the listed priorities:

(1) funding necessary to ensure that the co-payment for a family participating in the Child Care Financial Assistance Program shall not exceed 10 percent of a family's annual gross income;

(2) expansion of the Child Care Financial Assistance Program to families whose incomes are up to 400 percent of the current federal poverty level;

(3) increased access to high-quality infant care;

(4) access to high-quality, affordable child care for culturally and racially diverse families;

(5) support and assistance to stabilize regulated, privately operated center-based child care programs and family child care homes;

(6) the identification of any statutory or regulatory barriers to using the ARPA funds to address the immediate and future child care needs of Vermonters; and

(7) the fiscal impact of the pandemic on Head Start programs statewide.

(b) If ARPA funds are not available to implement the child care workforce support programs established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 5, the plan required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall include an offset to State funds to cover the child care workforce support programs.

Second: In Sec. 16, effective dates, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) This section and Sec. 10 (recommendations; American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; Child Care Development Block Grant; Child Care Stabilization Grants) shall take effect on passage.