

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill
3 No. 171 entitled “An act relating to the governance and financing of Vermont’s
4 child care system” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as
6 follows:

7 First: By striking out Sec. 4, appropriation and legislative intent; child care
8 financial assistance program, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new
9 Sec. 4 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 4. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; CHILD CARE FINANCIAL
11 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

12 It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

13 (1) consideration be made in fiscal years 2023 through 2026 to
14 progressively adjust the upper income limit of the Child Care Financial
15 Assistance Program fee scale each year; and

16 (2) the co-payment at the upper limit of the income eligibility scale for a
17 family participating in the Child Care Financial Assistance Program shall not
18 exceed 10 percent of a family’s annual gross income.

19 Second: In Sec. 5, Bright Futures Information System; modernization plan,
20 by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new
21 subsection (a) to read as follows:

1 (a) To the extent funds exist in fiscal year 2022, the Department for
2 Children and Families shall modernize the Bright Futures Information System.

3 Third: By striking out Sec. 7, appropriation and evaluation; early childhood
4 workforce programs, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 7 to
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 7. EVALUATION; EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE
7 PROGRAMS

8 On or before October 1, 2025, the Department for Children and Families’
9 Child Development Division, in consultation with stakeholders, shall submit a
10 report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development
11 and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Economic
12 Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Health and Welfare:

13 (1) evaluating the effectiveness of the scholarship and student loan
14 repayment programs established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 5 at
15 recruiting and retaining providers in Vermont’s child care and early learning
16 system; and

17 (2) recommending whether the scholarship and student loan repayment
18 programs established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 5 shall be repealed in
19 accordance with Sec. 8 of this act, retained and funded in their current states,
20 or retained with amendment.

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3 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE