

1 H.340

2 Introduced by Representatives Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Toof  
3 of St. Albans Town, Bartley of Fairfax, Beck of St. Johnsbury,  
4 Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of Colchester, Burditt of West  
5 Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Clifford of Rutland City,  
6 Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donahue  
7 of Northfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield,  
8 Graham of Williamstown, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of  
9 Lowell, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Maguire of  
10 Rutland City, Marcotte of Coventry, Mattos of Milton, McCoy  
11 of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan of Milton, Morris  
12 of Springfield, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City,  
13 Sammis of Castleton, Smith of Derby, Taylor of Milton, Walker  
14 of Swanton, and Williams of Granby

15 Referred to Committee on

16 Date:

17 Subject: Human services; child care; Child Care Financial Assistance

18 Program; eligibility; provider payments

19 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to expand the  
20 eligibility for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program and to decouple  
21 provider payments from the Step Ahead Recognition System (STARS).

1           An act relating to the Child Care Financial Assistance Program

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

3           Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 3512 is amended to read:

4           § 3512. CHILD CARE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;

5                       ELIGIBILITY

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

12          (2) The subsidy authorized by this subsection shall be established by the  
13          Commissioner, by rule, and shall bear a reasonable relationship to income and  
14          family size. Families shall be found eligible using an income eligibility scale  
15          based on the current federal poverty level and adjusted for the size of the  
16          family. Co-payments shall be assigned to the whole family and shall not  
17          increase if more than one eligible child is enrolled in child care. Families with  
18          an annual gross income of less than or equal to 150 percent of the current  
19          federal poverty guidelines shall not have a family co-payment. Families with  
20          an annual gross income up to and including ~~350~~ 400 percent of current federal  
21          poverty guidelines, adjusted for family size, shall be eligible for a subsidy

1 authorized by the subsection. The scale shall be structured so that it  
2 encourages employment. If the federal poverty guidelines decrease in a given  
3 year, the Division shall maintain the previous year's federal poverty guidelines  
4 for the purpose of determining eligibility and benefit amount under this  
5 subsection.

6 \* \* \*

7 Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 3514 is amended to read:

8 § 3514. PAYMENT TO PROVIDERS

9 \* \* \*

10 (c)(1) The payment schedule established by the Commissioner may  
11 reimburse providers in accordance with the results of the most recent Vermont  
12 Child Care Market Rate Survey.

13 ~~(2) The payment schedule shall include reimbursement rate caps tiered~~  
14 ~~in relation to provider ratings in the Vermont STARS program. The lower limit~~  
15 ~~of the reimbursement rate caps shall be not less than the 50th percentile of all~~  
16 ~~reported rates for the same provider setting in each rate category.~~

17 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.