

House Bill 2985

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY SUPPORTS

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Expands recipients eligible for subsidized employment-related child care and types of activities that may be eligible for subsidies.

Directs Early Learning Council to develop and implement optional training opportunities for providers of child care, providers of employment-related child care and exempt family child care providers.

Becomes operative January 1, 2018.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Human Services for employment-related child care subsidies.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to child care; creating new provisions; amending ORS 329A.500; and declaring an emer-
3 gency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 329A.500 is amended to read:

6 329A.500. (1) The Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Early Learning Di-
7 vision and the Office of Child Care, shall adopt rules for the operation of subsidy programs for
8 employment-related child care administered by the department. At a minimum, and taking into ac-
9 count the availability of funds, the rules must provide the following:

10 (a) Subsidy recipients may be entitled to receive the subsidy for at least one year, regardless
11 of changes in employment. Rules adopted by the department may provide for termination of subsidy
12 eligibility for reasons other than changes in employment during the one-year period. Exit eligibility
13 and copays must be structured to mitigate the financial impact of reduced subsidy support due to
14 increased income.

15 (b) Subsidy recipients who are enrolled in coursework, as defined by the department by rule,
16 may be entitled to receive the subsidy to enable the subsidy recipient to attend and participate in
17 the coursework provided all other eligibility requirements are met. **For purposes of this para-**
18 **graph, "coursework" includes, in addition to hours spent in class, hours spent engaging in**
19 **homework and study time, meetings with professors or teachers, exam preparation, student**
20 **work groups and on-campus activities.**

21 (c) Persons who are self-employed may qualify for subsidy programs provided all other eligibility
22 requirements are met.

23 **(d) Persons who are looking for work may qualify for subsidy programs for a maximum**
24 **of three months provided all other eligibility requirements are met.**

25 *[(d)]* (e) Subsidy recipients who voluntarily choose child care providers that meet minimum
26 standards established under the tiered quality rating and improvement system implemented under
27 ORS 329A.261 may qualify for lower copayments. A fair representation of the subsidy recipients who

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 qualify for lower copayments must be persons with children who are from underserved racial, ethnic
 2 or minority populations. In addition, child care providers that meet specified minimum standards
 3 established under the tiered quality rating and improvement system may receive an enhanced re-
 4 imbursement under the subsidy programs.

5 [(e)] (f) Subsidy recipients must report a change of child care provider to the department during
 6 the period a subsidy is being received.

7 (2) The department shall work to meet federal recommendations for income eligibility and mar-
 8 ket access in regard to employment-related child care administered by the department.

9 (3) **The department shall regularly review the amount of copays paid by subsidy recipi-
 10 ents under this section and adjust, as necessary, the amount of future copays to no more
 11 than 10 percent of the total amount of the subsidy received by each subsidy recipient. This
 12 subsection does not entitle subsidy recipients to reimbursement for amounts of copays that
 13 exceed 10 percent of the total amount of the subsidy received by the subsidy recipient and
 14 are paid by the recipient before the adjustment that is made in accordance with this sub-
 15 section.**

16 **SECTION 2. (1) The Early Learning Council shall develop and implement optional training
 17 opportunities for providers of child care, providers of employment-related child care and ex-
 18 empt family child care providers that include but are not limited to training on:**

- 19 (a) Basic health and safety;
- 20 (b) Early childhood development;
- 21 (c) Child mental health;
- 22 (d) Child nutrition; and
- 23 (e) Planning and engaging children in nurturing activities.

24 (2) **The Department of Human Services, the Office of Child Care, the Early Learning
 25 Council and the Early Learning Division shall collaborate to:**

- 26 (a) **Provide enhanced reimbursement to child care providers described in subsection (1)
 27 of this section who have participated in the training opportunities implemented under this
 28 section; and**
- 29 (b) **Incentivize parents to select child care providers who have participated in such
 30 training opportunities.**

31 (3) **The training provided pursuant to this section must be in addition to, and may not
 32 replace, the child care provider training program established under ORS 329A.490.**

33 **SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
 34 ated to the Department of Human Services, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, out of
 35 the General Fund, the amount of \$_____ for employment-related child care, which may be
 36 expended for expansion and enhancement of subsidy programs under ORS 329A.500.**

37 **SECTION 4. Section 2 of this 2017 Act and the amendments to ORS 329A.500 by section
 38 1 of this 2017 Act become operative on January 1, 2018.**

39 **SECTION 5. This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
 40 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect
 41 July 1, 2017.**