

# House Bill 3451

Sponsored by Representative BYNUM (at the request of Children First for Oregon)

## 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 to include persons looking for work. Provides that maximum three months' subsidy may include persons participating in job training programs in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Directs Department of Human Services to establish and implement practices and procedures to connect unemployed persons who are eligible for employment-related child care subsidies to job training programs in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to child care; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 329A.500.

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

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

5 329A.500. (1) The Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Early Learning Di-  
6 vision and the Office of Child Care, shall adopt rules for the operation of subsidy programs for  
7 employment-related child care administered by the department. At a minimum, and taking into ac-  
8 count the availability of funds, the rules must provide the following:

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

14 (b) Subsidy recipients who are enrolled in coursework, as defined by the department by rule,  
15 may be entitled to receive the subsidy to enable the subsidy recipient to attend and participate in  
16 the coursework provided all other eligibility requirements are met.

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

19 **(d) Persons who are looking for work may qualify for subsidy programs for a maximum**  
20 **of three months provided all other eligibility requirements are met. All or part of the three**  
21 **months described in this paragraph may include time spent by the person participating in job**  
22 **training programs that are available to unemployed participants in the Supplemental Nutri-**  
23 **tion Assistance Program. The department shall establish and implement practices and pro-**  
24 **cedures to connect unemployed persons who may be eligible for subsidies under this**  
25 **paragraph to job training programs in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.**

26 [(d)] (e) Subsidy recipients who voluntarily choose child care providers that meet minimum  
27 standards established under the tiered quality rating and improvement system implemented under  
28 ORS 329A.261 may qualify for lower copayments. A fair representation of the subsidy recipients who  
29 qualify for lower copayments must be persons with children who are from underserved racial, ethnic

**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 or minority populations. In addition, child care providers that meet specified minimum standards  
2 established under the tiered quality rating and improvement system may receive an enhanced re-  
3 imbursement under the subsidy programs.

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

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

8 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 329A.500 by section 1 of this 2017 Act apply to**  
9 **persons who become eligible subsidy recipients on or after the effective date of this 2017 Act.**

10