

FILED FEB 23 1998

HUMAN RESOURCES

SENATE FILE 2297

BY PALMER

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
 Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
 Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a unified publicly funded child day care
 2 assistance program administered by the department of human
 3 services.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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S.F. 2297

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 237A.13 STATE CHILD CARE
2 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

3 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context
4 otherwise requires, "federal poverty level" means the most
5 recently revised poverty income guidelines published by the
6 United States department of health and human services.

7 2. A state child care assistance program is established to
8 provide uniform access and eligibility standards for publicly
9 funded child day care. The program requirements shall be
10 established in rules adopted by the department in accordance
11 with this section pursuant to the recommendations of the child
12 day care advisory council.

13 3. a. Eligibility for state child care assistance shall
14 require an annual family income equal to or less than one
15 hundred-fifty percent of the federal poverty level.

16 b. The program shall not apply a copayment, sliding fee
17 scale, or other cost sharing requirement to participating
18 families with an annual income equal to or less than one
19 hundred percent of the federal poverty level.

20 4. The administrator shall contract for or implement by
21 other means a single point of access for eligibility
22 determination which provides for parental choice, consumer
23 education, and referral counseling.

24 5. Provider reimbursement shall utilize a voucher payment
25 system. The smallest unit of reimbursement shall be a half-
26 day rate. Reimbursement rates and the system for
27 administering reimbursement shall be uniform statewide.

28 Sec. 2. Section 239B.7, subsection 3, Code Supplement
29 1997, is amended to read as follows:

30 3. CHILD DAY CARE DEDUCTION ASSISTANCE. A family-shall-be
31 allowed family's eligibility for a state child day care
32 deduction-as-specified-in-rules assistance subsidy shall be
33 determined in accordance with section 237A.13. A family with
34 a stepparent shall be allowed-a eligible for state child day
35 care deduction assistance for any children of the stepparent

1 or the parent, subject to the limits provided in applicable
2 rules.

3 Sec. 3. Section 239B.8, subsection 2, unnumbered paragraph
4 1, Code Supplement 1997, is amended to read as follows:

5 A family investment agreement shall require an individual
6 to participate in one or more of the options enumerated in
7 this subsection. An individual's level of participation in
8 one or more of the options shall be equivalent to the level of
9 commitment required for full-time employment or shall be
10 significant so as to move the individual's level of
11 participation toward that level. The department shall adopt
12 rules for each option defining requirements and establishing
13 assistance provisions for child day care, transportation, and
14 other support services. Child day care assistance shall be
15 provided under the state child care assistance program created
16 in section 237A.13. The options shall include but are not
17 limited to all of the following:

18 Sec. 4. Section 239B.23, Code Supplement 1997, is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 239B.23 CHILD DAY CARE PROVISIONS.

21 ~~The following provisions involving child day care benefits~~
22 ~~shall apply to individuals who no longer receive family~~
23 ~~investment program assistance due to employment:~~

24 ~~1.--Eligibility for transitional child care benefits for a~~
25 ~~period of twenty-four months:~~

26 ~~2.--The department shall automatically determine an~~
27 ~~individual's eligibility for other child day care benefits if~~
28 ~~the individual is not eligible for transitional child care or~~
29 ~~eligibility for transitional child care benefits is exhausted.~~

30 Applicants and participants shall be eligible for state
31 child care assistance as provided in section 237A.13.

32 Sec. 5. TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.

33 Notwithstanding the amendment to section 239B.23 in this Act,
34 an individual receiving transitional child care assistance
35 under section 239B.23 on June 30, 1998, shall remain eligible

1 for the assistance until the period of eligibility applicable
2 to that individual as of June 30, 1998, has expired.

3 EXPLANATION

4 This bill establishes a unified publicly funded child day
5 care assistance program administered by the department of
6 human services.

7 New Code section 237A.13 creates the state child care
8 assistance program in the Code chapter relating to child
9 daycare facilities under the authority of the department. The
10 department is directed to adopt rules for the program as
11 recommended by the child day care advisory council.

12 Eligibility is limited to families with an annual income at or
13 below 150 percent of the federal poverty level. Cost sharing
14 requirements are not to be applied to participants with a
15 family income at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty
16 level. Child day care provider reimbursement is to be
17 provided with vouchers and the smallest reimbursement unit is
18 to be one half-day.

19 Code section 239B.7, relating to exemptions, deductions,
20 and disregards for determining income and resources for family
21 investment program assistance, is amended. The amendment
22 replaces a deduction for child day care costs with a reference
23 to determining eligibility for a subsidy under the state child
24 care assistance program created in the bill.

25 Code section 239B.8, relating to family investment program
26 agreement options and provisions for child day care and other
27 support, is amended to provide that child day care assistance
28 is to be provided in accordance with the state child care
29 assistance program created in the bill.

30 Code section 239B.23, providing for 24 months of
31 transitional child care assistance for persons who leave the
32 family investment program due to earned income, is amended to
33 remove the entitlement to 24 months of child care. Instead,
34 child care assistance is to be provided in accordance with the
35 state child care assistance program created in the bill.

1 The bill includes a transition provision allowing persons
2 who are receiving transitional child care assistance as of
3 June 30, 1998, to continue receiving that assistance until
4 their eligibility under the law in effect as of June 30, 1998,
5 would expire.

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