

FEB 26 2003  
HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 321  
BY GREIMANN and HEDDENS

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing the at-home infant child care program.  
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 321

1 Section 1. Section 237A.13, subsection 1, Code 2003, is  
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. f. The child's family is participating in  
4 the at-home infant child care program under section 237A.14.

5 Sec. 2. Section 237A.13, subsection 5, Code 2003, is  
6 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

7 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. Families participating in the at-home  
8 infant child care program under section 237A.14.

9 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 237A.14 AT-HOME INFANT CHILD CARE  
10 PROGRAM.

11 1. For the purposes of this section, unless the context  
12 otherwise requires:

13 a. "Eligible family" means a family which meets all of the  
14 following requirements:

15 (1) The family meets the eligibility requirements for the  
16 state child care assistance program or the family investment  
17 program.

18 (2) The family is not receiving other cash assistance from  
19 the state or a political subdivision of the state and is not  
20 receiving state child care assistance under section 237A.13 or  
21 other public assistance for child care at the time of  
22 participation in the at-home infant child care program.

23 (3) The family has not previously received the lifelong  
24 maximum total of assistance available under the at-home infant  
25 child care program.

26 (4) The family has an infant member.

27 b. "Eligible parent" means a parent who meets all of the  
28 following requirements:

29 (1) The parent is at least age eighteen and is a member of  
30 an eligible family.

31 (2) The parent provides full-time care for the parent's  
32 infant in the infant's home.

33 (3) The parent provides in-home care for any other of the  
34 parent's children in the eligible family.

35 c. "Infant" means a child who is less than one year of

1 age.

2 d. "Parent" means a birth parent, adoptive parent, or  
3 stepparent.

4 e. "State child care assistance program" means the state  
5 child care assistance program established under section  
6 237A.13.

7 2. The department shall establish an at-home infant child  
8 care program in accordance with this section. The program  
9 shall include all of the following:

10 a. An eligible family may participate in the at-home  
11 infant child care program in lieu of receiving assistance  
12 under the state child care assistance program.

13 b. An eligible family is limited to a lifetime total of  
14 twelve months of assistance under the program or ten months of  
15 assistance for a family participating in the family investment  
16 program.

17 c. The maximum rate of assistance payable to an eligible  
18 family under the at-home infant child care program is seventy-  
19 five percent of the maximum reimbursement rate payable under  
20 the state child care assistance program for infant child care,  
21 less any amount to be paid by the family under the sliding fee  
22 scale applicable to the eligible family's income level and  
23 family size under the state child care assistance program  
24 requirements. An eligible family participating in the family  
25 investment program is eligible for an extension of parental  
26 leave as provided in section 239B.8, subsection 2, paragraph  
27 "h", but is not eligible for cash payment under the state  
28 child care assistance program.

29 3. An eligible family participating in the at-home infant  
30 child care program must comply with requirements under the  
31 state child care assistance program for reporting income,  
32 family changes, and other information. If an eligible family  
33 is on a waiting list for the state child care assistance  
34 program at the time of admission into the at-home infant child  
35 care program, upon leaving the at-home infant child care

1 program the family shall reenter the state child care  
2 assistance program at the position to which the family would  
3 have advanced on the waiting list if the family had not been  
4 admitted into the at-home infant child care program. An  
5 extension of the period of parental leave shall also be  
6 authorized for a parent participating in the at-home infant  
7 child care program under section 237A.14, subject to a  
8 lifelong family maximum of not more than ten months.

9 Sec. 4. Section 239B.8, subsection 2, paragraph h, Code  
10 2003, is amended to read as follows:

11 h. Any other arrangement which would strengthen the  
12 individual's ability to be a better parent, including but not  
13 limited to participation in a parenting education program.  
14 Parental leave from employment shall be authorized for a  
15 parent of a child who is less than three months of age. An  
16 opportunity to participate in a parental education program  
17 shall also be authorized for such a parent. An individual who  
18 is not a parent who is nineteen years of age or younger or a  
19 parent of a child who is less than three months of age shall  
20 simultaneously participate in at least one other option  
21 enumerated in this subsection. An extension of the period of  
22 parental leave shall also be authorized for a parent  
23 participating in the at-home infant child care program under  
24 section 237A.14, subject to a lifelong family maximum of not  
25 more than ten months.

26 Sec. 5. EVALUATION. The department of human services  
27 shall evaluate the at-home infant child care program created  
28 by this Act and report to the governor and general assembly  
29 regarding the program and its impact by January 1, 2005.

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#### EXPLANATION

31 This bill amends the child care facilities Code chapter to  
32 require the department of human services to establish an at-  
33 home infant child care program for certain families that are  
34 eligible for the state child care assistance program or are  
35 participating in the family investment program. Families

1 receiving other public funding for child care or otherwise  
2 receiving other public assistance are not eligible. Under  
3 program requirements, an eligible family's infant cannot  
4 exceed 12 months of age.

5 The bill amends Code section 237A.13, relating to the state  
6 child care assistance program, to include participation in the  
7 at-home infant child care program as a component of the state  
8 child care assistance program eligibility and waiting list  
9 provisions.

10 The program has a lifelong maximum of 12 months of  
11 assistance. For families participating in the family  
12 investment program, the lifelong maximum is 10 months and the  
13 assistance is limited to an extension of the current parental  
14 leave provisions under a family investment agreement  
15 (available to families with an infant who is less than three  
16 months of age).

17 A participant in the family investment program is not  
18 eligible for a cash payment under the state child care  
19 assistance program. Otherwise, the maximum amount payable to  
20 an eligible family is 70 percent of the state's maximum  
21 reimbursement for infant child care, less the state child care  
22 assistance sliding fee scale amount payable by the family  
23 based upon family income and family size. If a participating  
24 family was on a waiting list for the state child care  
25 assistance program, the family retains the family's spot on  
26 the waiting list as though progress on the waiting list had  
27 continued while the family participated in the at-home infant  
28 child care program.

29 The department is required to evaluate the program and to  
30 submit a report to the governor and the general assembly by  
31 January 1, 2005.

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