

MAR 18 2003
Place On Calendar

HOUSE FILE 613
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 321)

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 613

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 4. Implementation of the at-home infant child care program
10 shall be limited to the extent of the funding available for
11 the program.

12 Sec. 4. Section 239B.8, subsection 2, paragraph h, Code
13 2003, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

33 EXPLANATION

34 This bill amends the child care facilities Code chapter to
35 require the department of human services to establish an at-

1 home infant child care program for certain families that are
2 eligible for the state child care assistance program or are
3 participating in the family investment program. Families
4 receiving other public funding for child care or otherwise
5 receiving other public assistance are not eligible. Under
6 program requirements, an eligible family's infant cannot
7 exceed 12 months of age.

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

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

20 Implementation of the program is limited to the extent of
21 the funding available for the program.

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

34 The department is required to evaluate the program and to
35 submit a report to the governor and the general assembly by

S.F. _____ H.F. 613

1 January 1, 2005.

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