

Senate File 2143 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2143

BY PETERSEN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the state child care assistance program
2 eligibility and application provisions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 237A.13, subsection 7, paragraphs a and
2 c, Code 2014, are amended to read as follows:

3 a. Families with an income at or below one hundred percent
4 of the federal poverty level whose members ~~are employed, for~~
5 at least twenty-eight hours per week in the aggregate, are
6 employed or are participating at a satisfactory level in an
7 approved training program or educational program, and parents
8 with a family income at or below one hundred percent of the
9 federal poverty level who are under the age of twenty-one years
10 and are participating in an educational program leading to a
11 high school diploma or the equivalent.

12 c. Families with an income of more than one hundred percent
13 but not more than one hundred forty-five percent of the
14 federal poverty level whose members ~~are employed, for~~ at least
15 twenty-eight hours per week in the aggregate, are employed
16 or are participating at a satisfactory level in an approved
17 training program or educational program.

18 Sec. 2. Section 237A.13, subsection 8, Code 2014, is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 8. Nothing in this section shall be construed as or is
21 intended as, or shall imply, a grant of entitlement for
22 services to persons who are eligible for assistance due to
23 an income level or other eligibility circumstance addressed
24 in this section. Any state obligation to provide services
25 pursuant to this section is limited to the extent of the funds
26 appropriated for the purposes of state child care assistance.
27 The department shall not redetermine the eligibility of a
28 program participant more frequently than every twelve months.

29 Sec. 3. STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS — MOBILE
30 DEVICES.

31 1. The department of human services shall review the
32 application form and other elements of the process used
33 by applicants to apply for the state child care assistance
34 program. The purpose of the review is to simplify the process
35 by eliminating requirements to provide unneeded or redundant

1 information and improving the wording of the application, and
2 identifying other options for improvement. The department
3 shall report the results of the review to the governor and
4 general assembly on or before December 1, 2014.

5 2. The department shall implement an application process
6 enhancement so that applicants for the state child care
7 assistance program may apply for the program using a telephone
8 mobile computer device.

9 Sec. 4. IMPLEMENTATION. The department of human services
10 shall adopt rules and take other actions as necessary to
11 implement the amendments to section 237A.13 in this Act, on
12 July 1, 2014.

13 EXPLANATION

14 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
15 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

16 This bill relates to the state child care assistance program
17 eligibility and application provisions.

18 State child care assistance program eligibility requirements
19 in Code section 237A.13 are addressed. The program is
20 administered by the department of human services. The
21 department establishes waiting list requirements for the
22 program based upon the availability of funding and eligibility
23 requirements for the program generally match the waiting
24 list requirements. The bill amends two of the waiting list
25 requirements that are based upon income and employment for at
26 least 28 hours per week or participation in an educational
27 program.

28 The bill revises the 28-hour-per-week employment requirement
29 to apply to a combination of employment and participation at a
30 satisfactory level in an approved training or education program
31 for 28 hours per week in the aggregate.

32 The bill provides that the department shall not redetermine
33 the eligibility of a program participant more frequently than
34 every 12 months.

35 The department is required to review the application

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1 form and the process used to apply for the program to make
2 improvements. The results of the review are to be reported
3 to the governor and general assembly on or before December 1,
4 2014. In addition, the department is required to implement an
5 application process enhancement so that applicants may apply
6 for the program using a telephone mobile computer device.

7 The department is required to adopt rules and take other
8 actions as necessary for the bill to be implemented by July 1,
9 2014.