

House File 321 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 321

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to state child care assistance, including
2 income eligibility and waiting list guidelines and copayment
3 requirements.

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

1 Section 1. Section 237A.13, subsection 7, paragraph c, Code
2 2017, is amended to read as follows:

3 c. Families with an income of more than one hundred
4 percent but not more than ~~one~~ two hundred ~~forty-five~~ percent
5 of the federal poverty level whose members, for at least
6 twenty-eight hours per week in the aggregate, are employed
7 or are participating at a satisfactory level in an approved
8 training program or educational program.

9 Sec. 2. DIRECTIVE TO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES — CHILD
10 CARE ASSISTANCE.

11 1. The department of human services shall amend its
12 administrative rules pursuant to chapter 17A to do all of the
13 following:

14 a. Provide income eligibility for state child care
15 assistance, according to family size for children needing basic
16 care, to families whose nonexempt gross monthly income does not
17 exceed two hundred percent of the federal poverty level.

18 b. Adjust the state child care assistance copayment schedule
19 in incrementally increased amounts for families whose nonexempt
20 gross monthly income does not exceed two hundred percent of the
21 federal poverty level.

22 2. The rules adopted pursuant to this section shall take
23 effect January 1, 2018.

24 EXPLANATION

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

27 This bill relates to state child care assistance, including
28 income eligibility and waiting list guidelines and copayment
29 requirements.

30 The state child care assistance program is administered by
31 the department of human services. Based upon the availability
32 of the funding appropriated for state child care assistance
33 for a fiscal year, the department establishes waiting
34 lists for state child care assistance in descending order
35 of prioritization. Under current law, one of the waiting

1 list requirements relates to families with an income of
2 more than 100 percent but not more than 145 percent of the
3 federal poverty level whose members, for at least 28 hours
4 per week in the aggregate, are employed or are participating
5 at a satisfactory level in an approved training program or
6 educational program. The bill increases this waiting list
7 income eligibility limit from 145 percent to 200 percent.

8 The bill directs the department of human services to amend
9 its administrative rules to provide income eligibility for
10 state child care assistance, according to family size for
11 children needing basic care, to families whose nonexempt
12 gross monthly income does not exceed 200 percent of the
13 federal poverty level. The bill also directs the department
14 to adjust the state child care assistance copayment schedule
15 in incrementally increased amounts for such families. The
16 administrative rules adopted by the department shall be
17 effective January 1, 2018.