

Senate File 324 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 324
BY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1139)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the health and well-being of children and
2 families including provisions for maternal support and
3 fatherhood initiatives, regional centers of excellence, a
4 state-funded family medicine obstetrics fellowship program,
5 state employee parental leave, adoption expenses under the
6 adoption subsidy program, and accessibility to the all Iowa
7 scholarship program; making appropriations; and including
8 effective date and applicability provisions.

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

1 DIVISION I
2 MORE OPTIONS FOR MATERNAL SUPPORT (MOMS) PROGRAM — FATHERHOOD
3 INITIATIVES

4 Section 1. Section 217.41C, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code
5 2023, is amended to read as follows:

6 c. For the purposes of **this section**, “*pregnancy support*
7 *services*” means those nonmedical services that promote
8 childbirth by providing information, counseling, and support
9 services that assist pregnant women or women who believe they
10 may be pregnant and men who are involved or who think they
11 might be involved in a pregnancy to choose childbirth and to
12 make informed decisions regarding the choice of adoption or
13 parenting with respect to their children.

14 Sec. 2. Section 217.41C, Code 2023, is amended by adding the
15 following new subsections:

16 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. The department shall develop and
17 maintain a virtual clearinghouse of pregnancy support
18 services and resources including but not limited to all of the
19 following:

20 a. Pregnancy resource center and maternity home information
21 including contact information, location, and services provided.

22 b. Assistance in accessing public assistance including but
23 not limited to the special supplemental nutrition program for
24 women, infants, and children and the supplemental nutrition
25 assistance program.

26 c. Educational resources.

27 d. Housing assistance.

28 e. Recovery and mental health services.

29 f. Family planning education.

30 g. Adoption and foster care information and services.

31 h. Healing and support services for abortion survivors and
32 their families.

33 NEW SUBSECTION. 9. Beginning July 1, 2023, and thereafter,
34 funding for the program may be used for all of the following
35 purposes:

1 *a. Fatherhood engagement grants.* The department may
2 award grants to nonprofit, community-based organizations to
3 address the needs of fathers by assisting fathers in finding
4 employment, managing child support obligations, transitioning
5 from a period of incarceration, accessing health care,
6 understanding child development, and enhancing parenting skills
7 using evidence-based parenting education. Priority in the
8 awarding of grants shall be based on the demonstrated need
9 in a geographic area and the prevalence of the population to
10 be served as indicated by factors including but not limited
11 to the service area's unemployment rate, incarceration rate,
12 number of public assistance recipients, number of single-parent
13 households, level of housing instability, and graduation rates.

14 *b. Fatherhood communications initiative.* The department
15 shall administer a communications initiative on responsible
16 fatherhood including but not limited to a public internet site
17 that provides access to resources on effective parenting and
18 assistance in receiving parenting support and services.

19 *c. Mentoring school-aged males grant program.* The
20 department may award three-year renewable grants to nonprofit
21 organizations that provide mentorship, social and academic
22 support, and life skills development to school-aged males.
23 Priority in the awarding of grants shall be based on the
24 demonstrated need in a geographic area and the prevalence of
25 the population to be served as indicated by factors including
26 but not limited to the service area's unemployment rate,
27 incarceration rate, number of public assistance recipients,
28 number of single-parent households, level of housing
29 instability, and graduation rates. The department shall
30 provide technical assistance to grantees to ensure program
31 sustainability following the end of the three-year grant
32 period.

33 Sec. 3. MORE OPTIONS FOR MATERNAL SUPPORT PROGRAM —
34 APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the general fund of
35 the state to the department of health and human services for

1 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30,
2 2024, the following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary,
3 to be used for the purposes designated:

4 \$ 2,000,000

5 To be used for the purposes of the more options for maternal
6 support program created in section 217.41C, including for
7 program administration, the provision of services, and for
8 funding of fatherhood engagement grants, the fatherhood
9 communications initiative, and the mentoring school-aged males
10 grant program.

11 Sec. 4. 2022 Iowa Acts, chapter 1131, section 28, subsection
12 8, is amended to read as follows:

13 8. Of the funds appropriated under this section, \$500,000
14 shall be used for the purposes of program administration and
15 provision of pregnancy support services through the more
16 options for maternal support program created in this Act.
17 Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in this
18 subsection that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close
19 of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available
20 for the purposes designated until the close of the succeeding
21 fiscal year.

22 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. The following, being deemed of
23 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment:

24 The section of this division of this Act amending 2022 Iowa
25 Acts, chapter 1131, section 28, subsection 8.

26 DIVISION II

27 REGIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE GRANT PROGRAM

28 Sec. 6. REGIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM — GRANTS —
29 APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the general fund of
30 the state to the department of health and human services for
31 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30,
32 2024, the following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary,
33 to be used for the purposes designated:

34 \$ 1,000,000

35 The funds appropriated in this section shall be used for

1 the continuation of a center of excellence program to award
2 four grants to encourage innovation and collaboration among
3 regional health care providers in a rural area based upon the
4 results of a regional community needs assessment to transform
5 health care delivery in order to provide quality, sustainable
6 care that meets the needs of the local communities. An
7 applicant for the grant funds shall specify how the funds will
8 be expended to accomplish the goals of the program and shall
9 provide a detailed five-year sustainability plan prior to being
10 awarded any funding. Following the receipt of grant funding,
11 a recipient shall submit periodic reports as specified by the
12 department to the governor and the general assembly regarding
13 the recipient's expenditure of the funds and progress in
14 accomplishing the program's goals.

15

DIVISION III

16 STATE-FUNDED FAMILY MEDICINE OBSTETRICS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

17 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 135.182 State-funded family medicine
18 obstetrics fellowship program — fund.

19 1. The department shall establish a family medicine
20 obstetrics fellowship program to increase access to family
21 medicine obstetrics practitioners in rural and underserved
22 areas of the state. A person who has completed an
23 accreditation council for graduate medical education residency
24 program in family medicine is eligible for participation
25 in the fellowship program. Participating fellows shall
26 enter into a program agreement with a participating teaching
27 hospital which, at a minimum, requires the fellow to complete a
28 one-year fellowship and to engage in full-time family medicine
29 obstetrics practice in a rural or underserved area of the
30 state for a period of at least five years within nine months
31 following completion of the fellowship and receipt of a license
32 to practice medicine in the state.

33 2. Each fellow participating in the program shall be
34 eligible for a salary and benefits including a stipend as
35 determined by the participating teaching hospital which shall

1 be funded through the family medicine obstetrics fellowship
2 program fund.

3 3. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
4 17A to administer the program, including defining rural and
5 underserved areas for the purpose of the required full-time
6 practice of a person following completion of the fellowship.

7 4. *a.* A family medicine obstetrics fellowship program
8 fund is created in the state treasury consisting of the moneys
9 appropriated or credited to the fund by law. Notwithstanding
10 section 8.33, moneys in the fund at the end of each fiscal year
11 shall not revert to any other fund but shall remain in the fund
12 for use in subsequent fiscal years. Moneys in the fund are
13 appropriated to the department to be used to fund fellowship
14 positions as provided in this section.

15 *b.* For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and each
16 fiscal year beginning July 1 thereafter, there is appropriated
17 from the general fund of the state to the family medicine
18 obstetrics fellowship program fund an amount sufficient to
19 support the creation of four fellowship positions as provided
20 in this section.

21 5. The department and the participating teaching hospitals
22 shall regularly evaluate and document their experiences
23 including identifying ways the program may be modified or
24 expanded to facilitate increased access to family medicine
25 obstetrics practitioners in rural and underserved areas of the
26 state. The department shall submit an annual report to the
27 general assembly by January 1. The report shall include the
28 number of fellowships funded to date and any other information
29 identified by the department and the participating teaching
30 hospitals as indicators of outcomes and the effectiveness of
31 the program.

32 6. For the purposes of this section, "*teaching hospital*"
33 means a hospital or medical center that provides medical
34 education to prospective and current health professionals.

35 Sec. 8. STATE-FUNDED FAMILY MEDICINE OBSTETRICS FELLOWSHIP

1 PROGRAM AND FUND — APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from
2 the general fund of the state to the department of health and
3 human services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and
4 ending June 30, 2024, the following amount, or so much thereof
5 as is necessary, to be used for the purposes designated:

6 \$ 560,000

7 For deposit in the family medicine obstetrics fellowship
8 program fund to be utilized in creating and providing for four
9 family medicine obstetrics fellowship positions during the
10 fiscal year in accordance with the family medicine obstetrics
11 fellowship program created in this division of this Act.

12 DIVISION IV

13 STATE EMPLOYEE PAID PARENTAL LEAVE BENEFIT

14 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 70A.31 Paid parental leave.

15 1. A state employee entitled to leave under the federal
16 Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 shall be provided paid
17 leave for such time as specified in this section for the birth
18 or placement for adoption with the employee of a child if the
19 leave is taken within twelve months following any such birth
20 or adoption.

21 2. a. For the birth of a child, a state employee parent who
22 gave birth shall be entitled to up to four weeks of paid leave
23 and a state employee parent who did not give birth shall be
24 entitled to up to one week of paid leave.

25 b. For the placement for adoption of a child, a state
26 employee parent shall be entitled to up to four weeks of paid
27 leave.

28 3. The department of administrative services shall adopt
29 rules to implement this section.

30 DIVISION V

31 NONRECURRING ADOPTION EXPENSES — ADOPTION SUBSIDY PROGRAM

32 Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. 234.48 Adoption subsidy —
33 nonrecurring adoption expenses.

34 Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the maximum
35 reimbursement provided to an adoptive parent under the

1 adoption subsidy program for nonrecurring adoption expenses
2 is one thousand dollars. For the purposes of this section,
3 *“nonrecurring adoption expenses”* means the same as defined in 45
4 C.F.R. §1356.41. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to
5 chapter 17A to administer this section.

6 Sec. 11. REPEAL. 2010 Iowa Acts, chapter 1031, section 408,
7 is repealed.

8 DIVISION VI

9 ALL IOWA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

10 Sec. 12. Section 261.87, subsection 1, paragraph b,
11 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2023, is amended to read as
12 follows:

13 *“Eligible foster care student”* means a person under
14 twenty-six years of age who has a high school diploma or a high
15 school equivalency diploma under [chapter 259A](#) and is described
16 by any of the following:

17 Sec. 13. Section 261.87, subsection 2, paragraph f, Code
18 2023, is amended to read as follows:

19 *f.* (1) Begins Except as provided in subparagraph (2),
20 begins enrollment at an eligible institution within two
21 academic years of graduation from high school or receipt of
22 a high school equivalency diploma under [chapter 259A](#) and
23 continuously receives awards as a full-time or part-time
24 student to maintain eligibility. However, the student may
25 defer or suspend participation in the program for up to two
26 years in order to pursue obligations that meet conditions
27 established by the commission by rule or to fulfill military
28 obligations.

29 (2) The requirements of subparagraph (1) do not apply to an
30 eligible foster care student.

31 Sec. 14. APPLICABILITY. This division of this Act applies
32 to applications submitted under the all Iowa opportunity
33 scholarship program established pursuant to section 261.87
34 before, on, or after the effective date of this division of
35 this Act.

1

EXPLANATION

2

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

4 This bill relates to the health and well-being of children
5 and families. The bill is constructed in divisions.

6 DIVISION I — MORE OPTIONS FOR MATERNAL SUPPORT (MOMS)
7 PROGRAM — FATHERHOOD INITIATIVES. This division relates to
8 the more options for maternal support (MOMS) program. The
9 bill adds as part of the definition of "pregnancy support
10 services" services to men who are involved or think they might
11 be involved in a pregnancy. As part of the MOMS program,
12 the division requires HHS to develop and maintain a virtual
13 clearinghouse of pregnancy support services and resources. The
14 services and resources include but are not limited to pregnancy
15 resource center and maternity home information; assistance in
16 accessing public assistance including but not limited to the
17 special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and
18 children program and the supplemental nutrition assistance
19 program; educational resources; housing assistance; recovery
20 and mental health services; family planning education; adoption
21 and foster care information and services; and healing and
22 support services for abortion survivors and their families.

23 As part of the MOMS program, beginning July 1, 2023, and
24 thereafter, funding for the program may be used for fatherhood
25 engagement grants to nonprofit, community-based organizations
26 to address the needs of fathers by assisting fathers in
27 finding employment, managing child support obligations,
28 transitioning from a period of incarceration, accessing health
29 care, understanding child development, and enhancing parenting
30 skills using evidence-based parenting education; a fatherhood
31 communications initiative administered by HHS, including but
32 not limited to a public internet site that provides access to
33 resources on effective parenting and assistance in receiving
34 parenting support and services; and a mentoring school-aged
35 males grant program to provide mentorship, social and academic

1 support, and life skills development to school-aged males.

2 The division also appropriates \$2 million from the general
3 fund of the state to HHS for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be used
4 for the MOMS program including for program administration, the
5 provision of services, and for funding of fatherhood engagement
6 grants, the fatherhood communications initiative, and the
7 mentoring school-aged males grant program.

8 The division provides that the funding appropriated for the
9 MOMS program for fiscal year 2022-2023 is not to revert, but
10 is to remain available for the MOMS program for fiscal year
11 2023-2024. This provision takes effect upon enactment.

12 DIVISION II — REGIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE GRANT PROGRAM.

13 This division appropriates \$1 million from the general fund
14 of the state to the department of health and human services
15 (HHS) for fiscal year 2023-2024 for continuation of a regional
16 center of excellence program to award four grants to encourage
17 innovation and collaboration among regional health care
18 providers in a rural area based upon the results of a regional
19 community needs assessment to transform health care delivery in
20 order to provide quality, sustainable care that meets the needs
21 of the local communities. An applicant for the grant funds
22 shall specify how the funds will be expended to accomplish the
23 goals of the program and shall provide a detailed five-year
24 sustainability plan prior to being awarded any funding.

25 Following the receipt of grant funding, a recipient shall
26 submit periodic reports as specified by HHS to the governor and
27 the general assembly regarding the recipient's expenditure of
28 the funds and progress in accomplishing the program goals.

29 DIVISION III — STATE-FUNDED FAMILY MEDICINE OBSTETRICS
30 FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AND FUND. This division requires HHS to
31 establish a family medicine obstetrics fellowship program to
32 increase access to family medicine obstetrics practitioners
33 in rural and underserved areas of the state. A person who
34 has completed an accreditation council for graduate medical
35 education residency program in family medicine is eligible for

1 participation in the fellowship program. Participating fellows
2 shall enter into a program agreement with a participating
3 teaching hospital which, at a minimum, requires the fellow
4 to complete a one-year fellowship and to engage in full-time
5 family medicine obstetrics practice in a rural or underserved
6 area of the state for a period of at least five years within
7 nine months following completion of the fellowship and receipt
8 of a license to practice medicine in the state. Each fellow
9 participating in the program shall be eligible for salary and
10 benefits including a stipend as determined by the participating
11 teaching hospital and funded through the family medicine
12 obstetrics fellowship program fund.

13 The division requires HHS to adopt administrative rules
14 to administer the program, including defining rural and
15 underserved areas for the purpose of the required full-time
16 practice of a person following completion of the fellowship.

17 The division creates a family medicine obstetrics fellowship
18 program fund in the state treasury consisting of the moneys
19 appropriated or credited to the fund by law. Moneys in the
20 fund at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to any
21 other fund but shall remain in the fund for use in subsequent
22 fiscal years. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to HHS
23 to be used to fund fellowship positions as provided in the
24 division. The division appropriates a sufficient amount from
25 the general fund of the state to the fund annually to support
26 the creation of four fellowship positions. The division
27 provides an appropriation for deposit in the fund for fiscal
28 year 2023-2024.

29 The division requires HHS and the participating teaching
30 hospitals to regularly evaluate and document their experiences
31 including identifying ways the program may be modified or
32 expanded to facilitate increased access to family medicine
33 obstetrics practitioners in rural and underserved areas of the
34 state. The department shall submit an annual report to the
35 general assembly by January 1. The report shall include the

1 number of fellowships funded to date and any other information
2 identified by HHS and the participating teaching hospitals as
3 indicators of outcomes and the effectiveness of the program.

4 DIVISION IV — STATE EMPLOYEE PAID PARENTAL LEAVE BENEFIT.

5 This division provides that a state employee entitled to leave
6 under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 shall
7 be provided paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child if
8 the leave is taken within 12 months following any such birth or
9 adoption. The division provides that a state employee parent
10 who gives birth or adopts a child shall be entitled to up to
11 four weeks of paid leave while a state employee parent of a
12 child who did not give birth shall be entitled to up to one
13 week of paid leave. The division requires the department of
14 administrative services to adopt rules to implement this paid
15 parental leave benefit.

16 DIVISION V — NONRECURRING ADOPTION EXPENSES — ADOPTION

17 SUBSIDY PROGRAM. This division provides that the maximum
18 reimbursement provided to an adoptive parent under the adoption
19 subsidy program for nonrecurring adoption expenses is \$1,000.
20 The division defines "nonrecurring adoption expenses" as the
21 reasonable and necessary adoption fees, court costs, attorney
22 fees, and other expenses which are directly related to the
23 legal adoption of a child with special needs which are not
24 incurred in violation of state, tribal, or federal law, and
25 which have not been reimbursed from other sources or other
26 funds. Under federal regulation, "other expenses which
27 are directly related to the legal adoption of a child with
28 special needs" means the costs of the adoption incurred by
29 or on behalf of the parents and for which parents carry the
30 ultimate liability for payment. Such costs may include the
31 adoption study, including health and psychological examination,
32 supervision of the placement prior to adoption, transportation,
33 and the reasonable costs of lodging and food for the child or
34 the adoptive parents when necessary to complete the placement
35 or adoption process. The department of health and human

1 services shall adopt administrative rules to administer the
2 division. The division also repeals a provision in 2010 Iowa
3 Acts which limited the nonrecurring adoption expenses to \$500
4 and prohibited additional amounts for court costs and other
5 related legal expenses.

6 DIVISION VI — ALL IOWA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

7 This division relates to the all Iowa opportunity scholarship
8 program (program), which provides scholarships to Iowa
9 students who graduate from high school or receive a high
10 school equivalency diploma to help such students attend a
11 community college in this state or an institution of higher
12 learning governed by the state board of regents. The program
13 prioritizes awarding scholarships to certain students,
14 including eligible foster care students. Eligible foster care
15 students are students who age out of Iowa's foster care system,
16 age out of the state training school, or are adopted from
17 Iowa's foster care system after reaching 16 years of age.

18 Current law requires that, in order to be eligible to
19 receive a scholarship under the program, the student must begin
20 enrollment at a community college or institution of higher
21 learning governed by the state board of regents within two
22 academic years of graduation from high school or receipt of a
23 high school equivalency diploma and continuously receive awards
24 as a full-time or part-time student to maintain eligibility.
25 The division strikes these requirements for eligible foster
26 care students. The division also provides that, for purposes
27 of the program, "eligible foster care student" does not include
28 a person who is 26 years of age or older.

29 The division applies to applications submitted under
30 the program before, on, or after the effective date of the
31 division.