

**House File 411 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 411

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**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to state child care assistance program copayments  
2 for unhoused persons.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 237A.1, Code 2025, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 16. "Unhoused" means lacking a fixed,  
4 regular, and adequate nighttime residence. "Unhoused" includes  
5 but is not limited to all of the following:

6 a. A person living in the housing of other persons due to the  
7 person's loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.

8 b. A person living in a motel, hotel, or campground due to  
9 the lack of a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

10 c. A person living in an emergency or transitional shelter.

11 d. A person abandoned in a hospital.

12 e. A person living in a place not designed for, or ordinarily  
13 used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

14 f. A person living in a car, park, public space, abandoned  
15 building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar  
16 setting.

17 Sec. 2. Section 237A.13, Code 2025, is amended by adding the  
18 following new subsection:

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. A family the department has determined  
20 is unhoused shall not be required to make a copayment or similar  
21 payment to the state as a condition of participation in the state  
22 child care assistance program. The exemption created by this  
23 subsection shall continue for a family until six months from  
24 the date the department has determined the family is no longer  
25 unhoused.

26 **EXPLANATION**

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

29 This bill relates to state child care assistance (CCA) program  
30 copayments for unhoused persons.

31 The bill defines "unhoused" as lacking a fixed, regular, and  
32 adequate nighttime residence, and lists several circumstances in  
33 which a person is considered unhoused.

34 To be eligible for the CCA program, a participating family is  
35 required to make copayments based on the number of the family's

1 children in a child care provider's care and the family's gross  
2 monthly income. The bill exempts a family the department of  
3 health and human services (HHS) has determined is unhoused from  
4 making a CCA copayment, or similar payment to the state, as a  
5 condition of CCA program participation. The exemption continues  
6 until six months from the date HHS determines the family is no  
7 longer unhoused.

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