

A bill for an act

relating to child care; improving the quality of child care and expanding the professional development of child care practitioners; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 119B.21, subdivision 5; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 136A.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 119B.21, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Child care services grants.** (a) A child care resource and referral program designated under section 119B.19, subdivision 1a, may award child care services grants for:

(1) creating new licensed child care facilities and expanding existing facilities, including, but not limited to, supplies, equipment, facility renovation, and remodeling;

(2) improving licensed child care facility programs;

(3) staff training and development services including, but not limited to, in-service training, curriculum development, accreditation, certification, consulting, resource centers, ~~and~~ program and resource materials, supporting effective teacher-child interactions, child-focused teaching, and content-driven classroom instruction;

(4) interim financing;

(5) capacity building through the purchase of appropriate technology to create, enhance, and maintain business management systems;

(6) emergency assistance for child care programs;

(7) new programs or projects for the creation, expansion, or improvement of programs that serve ethnic immigrant and refugee communities; and

(8) targeted recruitment initiatives to expand and build the capacity of the child care system and to improve the quality of care provided by legal nonlicensed child care providers.

(b) A child care resource and referral program designated under section 119B.19, subdivision 1a, may award child care services grants to:

(1) licensed providers;

(2) providers in the process of being licensed;

(3) corporations or public agencies that develop or provide child care services;

(4) school-age care programs; or

(5) any combination of clauses (1) to (4).

Unlicensed providers are only eligible for grants under paragraph (a), clause (7).

(c) A recipient of a child care services grant for facility improvements, interim financing, or staff training and development must provide a 25 percent local match.

Sec. 2. [136A.126] TEACHER EDUCATION AND COMPENSATION HELPS; MINNESOTA EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER RETENTION PROGRAMS.

Subdivision 1. **TEACH.** The teacher education and compensation helps program (TEACH) is established to provide tuition scholarships, education incentives, and an early childhood teacher retention program to provide retention incentives to early care and education providers. The commissioner shall transfer funds provided under this section through a grant to a nonprofit organization licensed to administer the TEACH early childhood program.

Subd. 2. **Program components.** (a) The nonprofit organization shall distribute funds for:

(1) tuition scholarships up to \$5,000 per year for courses leading to the nationally recognized child development associate credential or college-level courses leading to an associate's or bachelor's degree in early childhood development and school-age care; and

(2) education incentives of a minimum of \$100 to participants in the tuition scholarship program if they complete a year of working in the early care and education field.

(b) Applicants for the scholarship must be either employed by a licensed early childhood or child care program and working directly with children, a licensed family child care provider, or an employee in a school-age program operated under the auspices of a license-exempt public program. Lower wage earners will be given high consideration when awarding the tuition scholarships. Scholarship recipients must contribute ten percent of the total scholarship and must be sponsored by their employers, who must

also contribute ten percent of the total scholarship. Scholarship recipients who are self-employed must contribute only 20 percent of the total scholarship.

(c) The organization shall also distribute funds for teacher retention incentives of \$1,000 to \$3,500 annually to be paid biannually. Applicants for the retention incentives must be either employed by a licensed early childhood or child care program and working directly with children, a licensed family child care provider, or an employee in a school-age program operated under the auspices of a license-exempt public program. Lower wage earners will be given high consideration. The amount of the retention incentive must be based on the applicant's level of education when the applicant applies for the incentive. A provider is eligible for the retention incentive if the provider:

(1) has worked in the field for at least one year and has been working at the same location for at least one year at the time of application;

(2) agrees to remain in the provider's current position for a period of at least one year; and

(3) has an associate's or bachelor's degree or a child development associate's degree.

Subd. 3. **Advisory committee.** The TEACH early childhood and Minnesota early childhood teacher retention programs must have an advisory board as prescribed by the national TEACH organization.

Sec. 3. **COMMISSIONER OF HUMAN SERVICES DUTIES; EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING.**

Subdivision 1. **Early childhood professional development system.** By January 15, 2008, the commissioner of human services shall implement a redesigned early childhood professional development system to increase the quality and continuum of professional development opportunities for child care practitioners.

Subd. 2. **Two-hour early childhood training.** By January 15, 2008, the commissioner of human services, with input from the Minnesota Licensed Family Child Care Association and the Minnesota Professional Development Council, shall identify existing training, provide recommendations on training needs, and develop new training that meets the two-hour early childhood development training requirement for new child care practitioners under Minnesota Statutes, section 245A.14, subdivision 9a.

Sec. 4. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Expanded quality rating system pilot program.** \$..... is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, to be transferred to the Minnesota Early Learning

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4.1 Foundation under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.175, to fund an expanded pilot
4.2 program to test and evaluate the quality rating system.

4.3 Subd. 2. **Child care services grants.** \$..... is appropriated from the general
4.4 fund to the commissioner of human services for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007,
4.5 for purposes of providing child care services grants under Minnesota Statutes, section
4.6 119B.21, subdivision 5.

4.7 Subd. 3. **Early childhood professional development system.** \$..... is appropriated
4.8 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the biennium beginning
4.9 July 1, 2007, for purposes of the early childhood professional development system, which
4.10 increases the quality and continuum of professional development opportunities for child
4.11 care practitioners.

4.12 Subd. 4. **TEACH.** \$..... is appropriated from the general fund to the Office of
4.13 Higher Education for the teacher education and compensation helps and the Minnesota
4.14 early childhood teacher retention programs in Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.126, in
4.15 fiscal year 2007 and shall become part of the base level funding for fiscal year 2008.