

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

H.B. 483
Mar 27, 2023
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40258-LUa-102C

Short Title: Auto Subsidy Eligibility/Childcare Tchr/Pilot. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Willis.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM THAT WOULD
3 ALLOW A CHILD CARE TEACHER EMPLOYED FULL TIME BY A LICENSED
4 CHILD CARE PROGRAM IN THE STATE TO BE DEEMED AUTOMATICALLY
5 ELIGIBLE FOR CHILD CARE SUBSIDY FOR THE TEACHER'S PRESCHOOL-AGE
6 CHILDREN.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
9 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division), the
10 sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for each year of the 2023-2025
11 fiscal biennium to establish a pilot program that provides automatic eligibility for child care
12 subsidy for the preschool-age children, 8 weeks to 5 years of age, of all child care teachers
13 employed full time by a licensed child care program in this State. A child care teacher deemed
14 automatically eligible for subsidy pursuant to this section shall have completed, be in the process
15 of completing, or enroll at the first available semester in an Introduction to Early Childhood class
16 at any local community college in this State. A child care teacher who does not already possess
17 an Early Childhood Education Infant/Toddler Certificate or Child Development Certificate shall
18 commit to remaining in college and completing either certificate within 18 months. Any
19 coursework taken pursuant to this act shall be paid for by the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood North
20 Carolina Scholarship Program, with no cost to the teacher. For purposes of this act, "full time"
21 means a minimum of 35 hours per week.

22 **SECTION 2.** The Division shall implement the pilot program within 120 days from
23 the effective date of this act. The Division shall select counties from across the State to participate
24 in the pilot program. In selecting counties, the Division shall focus on counties with the highest
25 percentage of child care capacity lost during the past 10 years. In determining the applicable rate
26 for a child care teacher eligible for subsidy under this act, the Division shall use the rate available
27 in the county where the teacher resides. Child care centers shall accept the current market subsidy
28 rates and may not charge copayment fees or any other fees in addition to the subsidy amount
29 provided pursuant to this act. County agencies shall use existing child care subsidy funding first
30 before applying for additional funding.

31 **SECTION 3.** The Division shall submit an initial report to the Joint Legislative
32 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division of the
33 General Assembly by March 31, 2024, of the number of child care teachers participating in the
34 pilot program, by county. Thereafter, the Division shall submit a quarterly report on the number
35 of participants in the program, with a detailed report by December 31 of each year the pilot



1 program is in effect. The quarterly and annual detailed reports shall include, at a minimum, the
2 following:

- 3 (1) The number of teachers in the pilot program who were already teaching and
4 became automatically eligible for child care subsidy on the effective date of
5 this act.
- 6 (2) The number of new teachers added to the pilot program, by county, on a
7 monthly basis.
- 8 (3) The retention of every teacher in the pilot program.
- 9 (4) Any other information the Division deems relevant.

10 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2023.