



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 718

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 6931

House of Representatives, May 9, 2001

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. DYSON of the 94th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION AND EQUITABLE WAGES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) The Department of Social Services shall assist
2 state or federally funded child day care centers in attracting and
3 retaining highly qualified early childhood teachers and assistants.

4 (b) Upon execution of an agreement between a child day care center
5 and the Department of Social Services, the department may use
6 available resources to increase the reimbursement rate to such centers
7 in order to increase wages and benefits paid to early education
8 professionals who obtain additional early childhood training or
9 education. Such increased reimbursement rate shall take effect not
10 later than thirty days after notification by a child day care center to the
11 Department of Social Services that agreed-upon requirements have
12 been met, and shall be incorporated into the regular reimbursement
13 agreement for such center in subsequent fiscal years.

14 Sec. 2. (NEW) No state or federally funded child day care center
15 shall encourage its employees to engage in, or discourage its
16 employees from engaging in, collective bargaining.

17 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

LAB	<i>Joint Favorable Subst. C/R</i>	HS
HS	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	APP
APP	<i>Joint Favorable Subst.</i>	

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Affected Agencies: Department of Social Services

Municipal Impact: See Explanation Below

Explanation

State Impact:

The bill permits the Department of Social Services (DSS), to the extent there are available resources, to enter into agreements with day care centers to pay increased rates for centers which employ workers who obtain additional early childhood education or training. There is no fiscal impact to the Department of Social Services as such increased rates will only be paid to the extent there is available funding. Additionally, the bill requires DSS to assist state or federally funded child care centers in recruiting and retaining highly qualified early childhood teachers and assistants. Whereas the bill does not specify the manner of DSS' assistance, it is anticipated that such assistance can be provided from existing budgetary resources, thus there is no fiscal impact.

Municipal Impact:

To the extent municipally operated day care centers receive increased rates from DSS for employing workers who obtain additional early childhood education and training, a revenue gain may occur. The extent of this revenue gain, if any, is contingent on DSS

determining there are available resources for this purpose and the amount of any such increased rate as determined by DSS.

OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sHB 6931

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION AND EQUITABLE WAGES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS.**SUMMARY:**

This bill allows the Department of Social Services (DSS) to increase the reimbursement rate for certain day care centers in order for the centers to increase the wages and benefits they pay to early education professionals who obtain additional training or education. The increased reimbursement rates must take effect within 30 days after the center notifies DSS that it has met the requirements it agreed to with DSS. The increased reimbursement rates must be incorporated into future regular reimbursement agreements. Currently, DDS does not reimburse day care centers; it purchases slots in centers directly.

The bill requires the DSS to assist state or federally funded centers in recruiting and retaining highly qualified early childhood teachers and assistants.

The bill also prohibits state or federally funded child day care centers from either encouraging or discouraging their employees from engaging in collective bargaining.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2001

BACKGROUND***Federal Preemption***

Under the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution, state law is preempted when Congress explicitly states an intent to regulate in the area. Federal labor law prohibits employers and unions from coercing employees or discriminating against them on the job because they do

or do not wish to join a union, engage in a peaceful strike or work stoppage, or exercise other organizational rights (29 U.S.C. §§ 151-164). To the extent state or federally funded day care centers are covered by federal labor law, the bill's prohibitions against encouraging or discouraging collective bargaining may be preempted.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 9 Nay 3

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 11 Nay 4

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 47 Nay 3