
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 887

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE 4 KIDS PROGRAM.

SUMMARY:

This bill codifies existing practice by requiring the Department of Social Services (DSS), within available appropriations, to grant up to six weeks of continued eligibility for Care 4 Kids subsidies to recipients who take unpaid leave from their jobs due to the birth or impending birth of a child. Such eligibility may be granted only if (1) the recipient intends to return to work at the end of the leave, (2) the recipient verifies that payment eligibility is needed to hold a child care slot in a licensed or school-based child care setting, and (3) the child for whom benefits have been provided continues to attend that program during the recipient's leave.

Under current regulations, DSS extends program eligibility for up to 16 weeks when a recipient takes an extended maternity leave, but it does not provide a subsidy during that time. (The parent must self-declare an intent to work at the end of that period.) Apparently, the 16-week extended eligibility period applies to licensed and school-based settings, as well as informal child care arrangements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

Care 4 Kids Program

Within available appropriations, DSS offers child care subsidies to working families and certain others who have income under 50% of the state median income (SMI). Currently, a family of three with income under \$42,829 per year can qualify. Once eligible, family income can rise to 75% of SMI, which for a family of three would be \$64,243 annually.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Children Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 0 (02/28/2013)