
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6576

AN ACT STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER NONPARENT RELATIVES RAISING CHILDREN.

SUMMARY

To the extent allowed by federal law, this bill increases the temporary family assistance (TFA) payment to families with a head of household who is (1) a nonparent caretaker relative (e.g., grandparent) and (2) the legal guardian of a child. It does this by making the TFA payment equal to the prevailing monthly foster care rate for families based on the child's age and medical condition.

Generally, nonparent caretaker relatives may qualify for financial assistance through the departments of children and families (DCF) or social services (DSS). Those who become guardians of foster children through DCF (i.e., Subsidized Guardianship Program) receive a larger payment than those who are guardians of children not involved in the child welfare system and receive a TFA payment for the child from DSS.

DCF payments equal the prevailing monthly foster care rate, which varies based on the child's age and medical condition. TFA payments vary by family size.

Additionally, the bill expands the scope of (1) State Department of Education (SDE) family resource centers and (2) DCF parent education and support centers to include resources, programs, and services for nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians (see BACKGROUND). It also requires these centers to make referrals for parents, nonparent caretaker relatives, and legal guardians to community programs on childhood development and positive parenting practices.

Lastly, the bill makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023, except that the provision increasing TFA child-only payments takes effect July 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND

SDE Family Resource Centers

By law, SDE and DSS must coordinate family resource centers together. These centers are generally located in public elementary schools and provide comprehensive child care services, remedial educational and literacy services, families-in-training programs, and supportive services to parents who receive TFA and other parents who need services.

DCF Parent Education and Support Centers

DCF operates, within available appropriations, community-based, multiservice parent education and support centers. The goal of each center is to improve parenting and family functioning to give children and youths more opportunities for positive development. Centers provide (1) parent education and training services; (2) parent support services; (3) information on, and coordination of, other community services; (4) consultation services; and (5) coordination of child care and transportation services to facilitate participation in the center’s programs.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 0 (02/28/2023)