



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2262

child care assistance

Prime Sponsor: Representative Brophy McGee, LD 28

DP Committee on Children and Family Affairs
DP Committee on Appropriations
DP Caucus and COW
X House Engrossed

OVERVIEW

HB 2262 requires the Department of Economic Security (DES) to provide child care assistance to eligible families for a certain period of time once the family income is greater than 165% of the federal poverty level, but less than 85% of the state median income.

PROVISIONS

1. Requires DES to provide child care assistance to eligible families for a period of time to be specified in rule once the family income exceeds 165% of the federal poverty level, but remains below 85% of the state median income, if the family is:
 - a. Transitioning off of cash assistance; or
 - b. Diverted from cash assistance;
2. Allows DES to continue to provide child care assistance to families whose income is greater than 165% of the federal poverty level, but less than 85% of the state median income for a period of time to be specified in rule, if the family is:
 - a. Below 165% of the federal poverty line at the time of application and requires the assistance in order to accept or maintain employment; or
 - b. Less than 165% of the federal poverty level at the time of application and is unable to provide child care for a portion of the day due to a crisis situation of domestic violence or homelessness, or a physical, mental, emotional or medical condition, participating in drug treatment or drug rehabilitation program or court ordered community restitution.
3. Prohibits DES from reviewing a case to evaluate eligibility for child care assistance more than once a year.
4. States that if the family income exceeds 85% of the state median income, child care assistance must cease upon notification by DES.
5. Allows DES to pay different levels of child care assistance depending on a state-approved quality indicator.

CURRENT LAW

[A.R.S. § 46-803](#) requires DES to provide child care assistance to eligible families for up to 24 months after their cash assistance case closure. The child care assistance is required to cease once the family income exceeds 165% of the federal poverty level, as determined by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. [A.R.S. § 46-805](#) permits DES to pay different levels of child care assistance depending on a number of criteria.

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[A.R.S. § 46-101](#) defines *cash assistance* as temporary assistance for needy families paid to a recipient for the purpose of meeting basic living expenses.