

AMENDMENTS TO LB329

Introduced by Health and Human Services.

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 Section 1. Section 68-1206, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 68-1206 (1) The Department of Health and Human Services shall
6 administer the program of social services in this state. The department
7 may contract with other social agencies for the purchase of social
8 services at rates not to exceed those prevailing in the state or the cost
9 at which the department could provide those services. The statutory
10 maximum payments for the separate program of aid to dependent children
11 shall apply only to public assistance grants and shall not apply to
12 payments for social services. As part of the provision of social services
13 authorized by section 68-1202, the department shall participate in the
14 federal child care assistance program under 42 U.S.C. 618, as such
15 section existed on January 1, 2013, and provide child care assistance to
16 families with incomes up to one hundred twenty-five percent of the
17 federal poverty level for FY2013-14 and one hundred thirty percent of the
18 federal poverty level for FY2014-15 and each fiscal year thereafter.

19 (2) As part of the provision of social services authorized by this
20 section and section 68-1202, the department shall participate in the
21 federal Child Care Subsidy program. In determining ongoing eligibility
22 for this program, ten percent of a household's gross earned income shall
23 be disregarded after twelve continuous months on the program and at each
24 subsequent redetermination. At redetermination of eligibility, if a
25 family's income exceeds one hundred thirty percent of the federal poverty
26 level, the family shall continue to receive transitional child care
27 assistance for up to twenty-four consecutive months or until the family

1 income exceeds two hundred ~~one hundred eighty-five~~ percent of the federal
2 poverty level. If a family's income falls to one hundred thirty percent
3 of the federal poverty level or below, the twenty-four-month time limit
4 in this subsection shall cease to apply until the family becomes eligible
5 for transitional child care assistance. The amount of such child care
6 assistance shall be based on a cost-shared plan between the recipient
7 family and the state and shall be based on a sliding-scale methodology. A
8 recipient family may be required to contribute a percentage of such
9 family's gross income for child care that is no more than the cost-
10 sharing rates in the transitional child care assistance program as of
11 January 1, 2015, for those no longer eligible for cash assistance as
12 provided in section 68-1724. Initial program eligibility standards shall
13 not be impacted by the provisions of this subsection.

14 (3) In determining the rate or rates to be paid by the department
15 for child care as defined in section 43-2605, the department shall adopt
16 a fixed-rate schedule for the state or a fixed-rate schedule for an area
17 of the state applicable to each child care program category of provider
18 as defined in section 71-1910 which may claim reimbursement for services
19 provided by the federal Child Care Subsidy program, except that the
20 department shall not pay a rate higher than that charged by an individual
21 provider to that provider's private clients. The schedule may provide
22 separate rates for care for infants, for children with special needs,
23 including disabilities or technological dependence, or for other
24 individual categories of children. The schedule may also provide tiered
25 rates based upon a quality scale rating of step three or higher under the
26 Step Up to Quality Child Care Act. The schedule shall be effective on
27 October 1 of every year and shall be revised annually by the department.

28 Sec. 2. Original section 68-1206, Reissue Revised Statutes of
29 Nebraska, is repealed.