

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2019
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB329

Hearing Date: Friday February 08, 2019
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Bolz
One Liner: Change provisions relating to child care assistance and licensure

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	4	Senators Cavanaugh, Howard, Walz, Williams
Nay:	1	Senator Arch
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:	2	Senators Hansen, B., Murman

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Kate Bolz
Tiffany Joekel
Mike Hornacek
Robert Patterson
Chris Tointon
Taylor Givens-Dunn
Emily Koopmann
James Goddard

Representing:

Introducer
Women's Fund of Omaha
Together
Kids Can Community Center
Nebraska Alliance of YMCAs; YMCA of Greater Omaha
Voices for Children in Nebraska
Civic Nebraska; Campbell Community Learning Center
Nebraska Appleseed

Opponents:

Matt Wallen

Representing:

Dept. of Health and Human Services

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 329 changes the eligibility and duration of transitional child care assistance under the Child Care Subsidy program and also amends the Child Care Licensing Act.

LB 329 changes the income eligibility for the Child Care Subsidy program in Nebraska to 165% of the federal poverty level. (Sec. 1, Page 2, lines 11-18.)

Sec. 1(2)(b) inserts language that redeterminations of eligibility may not occur more often than permitted under federal law, 42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(2)(N)(i)(I) or every 12 months. Section 1(2)(b) is also amended to allow a family to receive transitional child care subsidies until the family's income exceeds 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. (Page 2, lines 25-31.) This section strikes the 24 month time limit for transitional assistance. (Page 2, line 29.) It also strikes language which ends transitional child care assistance and moves the family back onto regular child care subsidy assistance if the family's income falls back below 130% of the federal poverty guidelines. (Page 2, line 31 and Page 3, lines 1-3.)

LB 329 also amends the Child Care Licensing Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-1912, to require the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to investigate applicants for child care provider licenses. The investigation is currently permissible but not required. It also adds prospective staff to the list of persons that must be investigated. (Sec. 2(1), Page 4, lines 3-5.)

Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-1912 is amended to provide that any fee charged by the DHHS for the cost of processing applications and administering a criminal background check as required shall not exceed the actual cost to DHHS. (Sec. 2(1), Page 4, lines 9-12.)

Explanation of amendments:

AM 1183 replaces the green copy and becomes the bill. It would change the eligibility level for transitional child care assistance from 185% of the federal poverty guidelines to 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. This does not change the initial eligibility for the child care program. Families must still make less than 130% of the federal poverty guidelines to enter the program. But if they increase their earnings while on the program, they may stay on if their income remains under 200% of the federal poverty guidelines at the time their eligibility is redetermined.

Sara Howard, Chairperson