INTRODUCED BY BRIESE, 41.

READ FIRST TIME JANUARY 20, 2022

COMMITTEE: APPROPRIATIONS

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate funds for child care.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. The Federal Funds appropriated in sections 2 to 17 of this act are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.

Sec. 2. There is hereby appropriated $5,000,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to assist families and waive copayments for child care subsidy and cover lost income of child care providers.

Sec. 3. There is hereby appropriated $2,900,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to support the Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative's Teen and Young Parent Program.

Sec. 4. There is hereby appropriated $500,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with an outside entity to help sustain the Child Care Referral Network for an additional three years.

Sec. 5. There is hereby appropriated $250,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with an outside entity to provide child care licensing materials, guidance, and support to help unlicensed and potential child care providers fulfill state licensing requirements.

Sec. 6. There is hereby appropriated $150,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with an outside entity to help family child care home providers achieve National Association for Family Child Care Accreditation, including, but not limited to, training, mentoring, a peer learning network, self-study materials, and application assistance.

Sec. 7. There is hereby appropriated $300,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with an outside entity to increase statewide access to All Our Kin, a
business course for family child care providers.

Sec. 8. There is hereby appropriated $400,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the State Department of Education to support the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System.

Sec. 9. There is hereby appropriated $480,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the State Department of Education to contract with an outside entity for an early childhood mental health and education consultation service developed to address the diverse behavioral health issues of young children and the environmental and educational needs of child care and early childhood educational facilities.

Sec. 10. There is hereby appropriated $19,000,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with an outside entity to increase child care capacity in areas of need, by increasing local community infrastructure, including, but not limited to, conducting a child care landscape study, development of capacity building plans, business planning, quality models, social emotional support and training, funds for planning and implementation of expansion and start-up for child care for children from birth through five years of age.

Sec. 11. There is hereby appropriated $12,518,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to extend the preschool development grant.

Sec. 12. There is hereby appropriated $750,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the State Department of Education to coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services to translate licensing materials, basic educational materials, and information regarding the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act into Spanish.

Sec. 13. There is hereby appropriated $3,580,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the State Department of Education to support the Child Care WAGE$ Nebraska program which provides education-based salary supplements for child care workers in licensed family child care.
settings.

Sec. 14. There is hereby appropriated $1,000,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services to extend state funding for fingerprinting and background checks for license-exempt providers, child care providers, staff, volunteers, and household members in licensed child care programs.

Sec. 15. There is hereby appropriated $165,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the State Department of Education to support the department's scholarship project to help child care providers cover the costs of professional development requirements.

Sec. 16. There is hereby appropriated $3,500,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the State Department of Education to contract with an outside entity to support the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Nebraska program that provides scholarships to help early care and education professionals complete coursework at a local college and work toward a degree in early childhood education.

Sec. 17. There is hereby appropriated $50,000,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services for retention and recruitment allowances for early childhood professionals. Currently employed child care professionals shall receive a monthly allowance of $350 for one year if they remain in the workforce. Newly recruited or re-engaged child care professionals shall receive the $350 monthly allowance 60 days after active employment with a program, including retroactive payments for the initial two months. They will also be eligible to receive this monthly allowance for one year.