

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB304**

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**Hearing Date:** Thursday February 06, 2025  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services  
**Introducer:** DeBoer  
**One Liner:** Eliminate a sunset date for the federal Child Care Subsidy program

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

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	5	Senators Hardin, Ballard, Fredrickson, Meyer, G., Quick
<b>Nay:</b>	1	Senator Riepe
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>	1	Senator Hansen

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Wendy DeBoer  
Dr. Katie Bass  
Bryan Slone  
Kristine VanHoosen  
Garret Swanson  
Taylor Givens-Dunn  
Ken Smith

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
First Five Nebraska  
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce  
YWCA Child Care Center  
Holland Children's Movement  
I Be Black Girls  
Nebraska Appleseed

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

John Meals

**Representing:**

Department of Health and Human Services

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 304 eliminates the sunset dates for individuals receiving child care assistance and transitional child care assistance.

**Section by Section Summary:**

Section 1: Amends section 68-1206 by removing the October 1, 2026, sunset date on the child care assistance eligibility cap of 185% of the federal poverty level and on the transitional child care assistance eligibility cap of 200% of the federal poverty level. Also, this bill removes the September 30, 2026, sunset date for Child Care and Development Block Grant funds to be used to pay the costs to the state resulting from the income eligibility changes



made in subdivisions (2)(a) and (b) of this section by Laws 2021, LB 485.

Sec. 2: Amends section 68-1724 by removing the October 1, 2026, sunset date on the reimbursement work-related child care expenses eligibility cap of 200% of the federal poverty level.

Sec. 3: Repealer

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**Explanation of amendments:**

AM2065 is as white copy committee amendment that strikes the original sections and inserts the following new sections:

Section by Section Summary:

Section 1: Amends section 68-1206 by changing the Child Care Subsidy program to remove the October 1, 2026, sunset date on the child care assistance eligibility cap of 185% of the federal poverty level. In addition, the committee amendment removes the October 1, 2026, sunset date on the transitional child care assistance eligibility cap of 200% of the federal poverty level. Also, the committee amendment provides it is the intent of the Legislature, that beginning October 1, 2026, the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund shall be used to pay the costs to the state from the eligibility changes made in subdivision (2)(a) and (b) of this section by this legislative bill. Finally, the requirement that the Department of Health and Human Services collaborate with a private nonprofit organization with expertise in early childhood care and education for an independent evaluation of the income eligibility changes made in subdivisions (2)(a) and (b) of this section is removed.

Section 2: Amends section 68-1724 by removing the October 1, 2026, sunset date on the reimbursement of work-related child care expenses eligibility cap of 200% of the federal poverty. Also, the committee amendment provides it is the intent of the Legislature that, beginning October 1, 2026, the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund shall be used to pay the costs to the state resulting from the income eligibility changes made in this section by this legislative bill.

Section 3: Repealer

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Brian Hardin, Chairperson

