

HB 2264 -- Child Care

Sponsor: Grisamore

By July 1, 2012, this bill requires the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services to modify the income eligibility criteria for receiving financial assistance for child care by allowing families with an income below 185% of the federal poverty level to receive subsidy benefits, subject to appropriations. The benefits will be distributed on a sliding scale based on family size and income. The division may waive the sliding scale fee for children with special needs and may establish procedures to assist families with incomes more than 185% of the federal poverty level in transitioning off of state assistance. If annual appropriations are not sufficient to cover all eligible families, the division may establish a waiting list and rules for the prioritizing of eligible recipients on the waiting list.

By July 1, 2012 all licensed child care providers must be reimbursed at current market rates established by the biannual state market rate survey conducted by the department.

The Child Care and Development Fund is created which will consist of moneys received from the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Program. Upon appropriation, moneys in the fund will be used by the department only within the guidelines of the federal program. Any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium will not revert to the General Revenue Fund.