

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 811

By Senator Chapman

[Introduced March 19, 2025; referred
to the Committee on Health and Human Resources;
and then to the Committee on Finance]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding six new sections, designated §49-2-1101, §49-2-1102, §49-2-1103, §49-2-1104, §49-2-1105, and §49-2-1106, relating to creating the Child Care Subsidy Pilot Program; setting forth the purpose; setting forth the duration of the pilot program; setting forth the reporting and evaluation requirements; setting forth definitions; authorizing rulemaking; providing for funding; and setting forth implementation requirements.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHILDREN.

PART XI. CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PILOT PROGRAM.

§49-2-1101. Child care subsidy pilot program; purpose.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the Child Care Subsidy Pilot Program.

(b) The purpose of this section is to establish a pilot program in West Virginia to provide a child care subsidy to child care workers, aimed at improving the financial stability, well-being, and retention of the child care workforce, while supporting high-quality care for children.

§49-2-1102. Duration; reporting; evaluation.

(a) The Child Care Subsidy Pilot Program shall run for an initial period ending on December 31, 2028.

(b) No later than May 1, 2027, the secretary shall prepare and submit a report to the Joint Committee on health, which shall include:

(1) The number of child care workers participating in the program;

(2) The total amount of the subsidy disbursed;

(3) Data on the retention of child care workers in the field during the program period; and

(4) Participant feedback on the impact of the subsidy.

(c) At the conclusion of the initial period, the secretary shall prepare and submit a comprehensive report to the Joint Committee on Health, which shall:

(1) Evaluate the successes, challenges, and outcomes of the Child Care Subsidy Pilot Program; and

(2) Include recommendations on whether the program should be expanded, modified, or discontinued.

§49-2-1103.

Definitions.

(a) "Child care worker" means an individual employed in a child care facility or program who is responsible for the direct care, supervision, or education of children.

(b) "Eligible child care worker" means an individual employed as a child care worker who meets the eligibility requirements promulgated by the secretary pursuant to §49-2-1104 of this code.

(c) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Human Services.

(d) "Subsidy" means a financial assistance payment provided to eligible child care workers to help cover the costs of their own child care needs, which shall not be less than 50% nor in excess of 100% of the child care costs.

§49-2-1104.

Rulemaking.

(a) The secretary shall promulgate rules regarding the administration, management, and implementation of the Child Care Subsidy Pilot Program by December 1, 2025.

(b) The rules shall provide for:

(1) The eligibility criteria for a child care worker to apply for the subsidy created under this program, including:

(A) The minimum hours per week the child care worker must be providing care; and

(B) The household income level of the child care worker's household;

(2) An application form for an eligible child care worker to apply for the subsidy;

(3) Criteria for approval of an application;

(4) The administration and management of the subsidy program;

(5) A survey to collect participant feedback;

- 12 (6) A means to advertise the program within the state; and
13 (7) Anything additional deemed necessary by the secretary to effectuate the provisions of
14 this article.

§49-2-1105.**Funding.**

- 1 (a) The Child Care Subsidy Pilot Program shall be funded by appropriations of the
2 Legislature, federal grants, private contributions, gifts, donations, or any other sources.
3 (b) The Child Care Subsidy Pilot Program shall initially be funded for the period ending
4 December 31, 2028.

§49-2-1106.**Implementation.**

- 1 (a) The secretary shall begin accepting applications for the Child Care Subsidy Pilot
2 Program no later than January 1, 2026.
3 (b) The Child Care Subsidy Pilot Program shall be fully operational by May 1, 2026.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the Child Care Subsidy Pilot Program.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law
and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.