

2013 -- S 0736

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LC02068
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE TRANSITION
PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senators Crowley, Pichardo, Metts, Goldin, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: March 13, 2013

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 40-5.2 of the General Laws entitled "The Rhode Island Works
2 Program" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **40-5.2-20.1. Pilot childcare assistance transition program established. -- (a) Findings.**
4 - Rhode Island provides childcare assistance to working families at or below one hundred eighty
5 percent (180%) of the federal poverty level. Under current guidelines, if a member of the family
6 is offered a raise, or is offered the opportunity to work additional hours, and the added income
7 puts the family's income even slightly over the threshold of eligibility; then the family stands to
8 completely lose the child care assistance benefit. This structure potentially creates a financial
9 disincentive to work and earn more.

10 (b) Pilot Program. - To encourage the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars and promote
11 economic self-sufficiency among working families receiving state child care, the director of the
12 state department of human services, henceforth referred to as the "director," shall develop a plan
13 for a pilot childcare assistance transition program whereby working families with incomes at or
14 below one hundred eighty percent (180%) receiving childcare assistance under the terms of
15 section 40-5.2-20 shall remain eligible for assistance so long as income is at or below two
16 hundred twenty-five percent (225%) of the federal poverty level and provided that the family
17 requires child care in order to work at paid employment.

18 (c) Plan Submission. - The director shall submit a plan for the pilot childcare assistance

1 transition program to the governor, the speaker of the house, the president of the senate, the
2 majority leaders of the house and senate and the chairpersons of the house and senate finance
3 committees by January 15, 2014. The plan shall include eligibility criteria for participation in the
4 pilot program, the cost estimates to implement the program, the estimated increase in wages
5 enabled through participation in the pilot program, and other information deemed necessary by
6 the director.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

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- 1 This act would establish the pilot childcare assistance transition program.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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