

State of Misconsin 2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3779/1 PJK&EHS:kjf

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 763

January 20, 2016 – Introduced by Representatives BARCA, JOHNSON, C. TAYLOR, ZAMARRIPA, SHANKLAND, OHNSTAD, SUBECK, BILLINGS, MILROY, MASON, CONSIDINE, BERCEAU, ZEPNICK, GOYKE, SINICKI, WACHS and SARGENT, cosponsored by Senators HARRIS DODD and WIRCH. Referred to Committee on Children and Families.

1 AN ACT *to create* 49.155 (6) (f) of the statutes; **relating to:** child care provider 2 rates and ratings under Wisconsin Shares, funding for Wisconsin Shares child 3 care subsidies, and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill provides a grace period before a child care provider's YoungStar rating is reduced due to a staff vacancy and increases funding for child care subsidies.

The Wisconsin Works (W-2) program under current law, which is administered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), provides work experience and benefits for low-income custodial parents who are at least 18 years old. Also, an individual who is the parent of a child under the age of 13 or, if the child is disabled, under the age of 19, who needs child care services to participate in various educational or work activities, and who satisfies other eligibility criteria may receive a child care subsidy for child care services under the W-2 program. This child care subsidy program is known as Wisconsin Shares. This bill increases funding for Wisconsin Shares.

Under current law, DCF establishes maximum payment rates, within specified parameters, for child care providers that provide child care services under Wisconsin Shares. DCF may increase or reduce an individual child care provider's maximum rate on the basis of the child care provider's quality rating under the quality rating plan known as YoungStar. This bill requires DCF to give a child care provider who loses a staff member a grace period of at least 45 days to fill the vacancy during which time the provider's quality rating under YoungStar may not be reduced.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 49.155 (6) (f) of the statutes is created to read:

49.155 (6) (f) If a child care provider loses a staff member, the department shall
give the child care provider a grace period to fill the vacancy during which time the
department may not reduce the provider's quality rating, as described in par. (e). The
grace period may not be less than 45 days after the child care provider receives notice
of the staff vacancy.

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SECTION 2. Fiscal changes.

8 (1) WISCONSIN SHARES. In the schedule under section 20.005 (3) of the statutes 9 for the appropriation to the department of children and families under section 20.437 10 (2) (cm) of the statutes, as affected by the acts of 2015, the dollar amount for fiscal 11 year 2015-16 is increased by \$5,000,000 for the purpose of paying child care 12subsidies under section 49.155 of the statutes. In the schedule under section 20.005 13 (3) of the statutes for the appropriation to the department of children and families under section 20.437 (2) (cm) of the statutes, as affected by the acts of 2015, the dollar 1415amount for fiscal year 2016–17 is increased by \$5,000,000 for the purpose of paying 16child care subsidies under section 49.155 of the statutes.

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(END)