



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 11/29/2016

Bill Number

Senate Bill 16-212

Sponsors

Senator Crowder
Representative Buckner

Short Title

12-month Eligibility Child Care Assistance Program

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill which was signed by the Governor and became effective on June 1, 2016.

Summary

This bill makes changes to align state law on eligibility for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) with federal law. Specifically, if an eligible participant's income rises above the level set by the county to deny child care assistance during the twelve-month eligibility period, the county must continue providing the child care subsidy until the next twelve-month redetermination period.

During the subsequent redetermination period, if the participant's income level exceeds the allowable level to qualify for assistance, the county may deny the participant by immediately notifying them that they are no longer eligible. The county must provide no less than 90 days and is encouraged to provide six months of the subsidy while the participant makes other child care arrangements. If the participant's income exceeds the maximum federal eligibility level at any point, no child care assistance is to be provided.

Background

The CCCAP in the Department of Human Services (DHS), provides subsidies to families meeting income and eligibility requirements to offset the cost of child care. Under current law, a county may provide child care assistance to any family whose income does not exceed 85 percent of the state median income for a family of the same size. Under federal guidelines, counties must provide child care assistance to families that have income of 130 percent or less of the federal

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poverty guideline. Under current law, counties must immediately notify a family if their income exceeds the allowable level and is encouraged to provide 6 months of child care assistance with at least 90 days being required. Currently there is no twelve-month period of continuous eligibility once the allowable income level is exceeded.

Senate Action

Senate State Affairs Committee (May 5, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from DHS, the Colorado Children's Campaign, and the Bell Policy Center testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole.

Senate second reading (May 5, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

Senate third reading (May 6, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

House Action

House Finance Committee (May 10, 2016). At the hearing, a representative from the Bell Policy Center testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the House Committee of the Whole.

House second reading (May 10, 2016). The House passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

House third reading (May 11, 2016). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.