

ASSEMBLY, No. 1471

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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District 19 (Middlesex)

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Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Timberlake, Haider and Assemblyman Calabrese

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to establish quality-based reimbursement system for registered family day care providers participating in Grow NJ Kids.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/17/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning payment rates for registered family day care
2 providers participating in the Grow NJ Kids program and
3 supplementing P.L.2009, c.299 (C.30:5B-22.1 et seq.)
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the
9 contrary, the Commissioner of Human Services shall establish a
10 tiered, quality-based reimbursement system for family day care
11 providers, registered pursuant to P.L.1987, c.27 (C.30:5B-16 et
12 seq.), that participate in the State's subsidized child care assistance
13 program and are rated under the Grow NJ Kids initiative, which
14 quality-based reimbursement system shall be substantively the same
15 as that for Grow NJ Kids-rated child care centers.

16 b. As used in this section "Grow NJ Kids" means New Jersey's
17 quality rating and improvement system for child care and early
18 learning programs, which rates the quality of child care services on
19 measurable quality metrics, and provides enhanced reimbursements
20 to certain higher- performing providers.

21 c. The commissioner shall apply for such State plan
22 amendments or waivers as may be necessary to implement the
23 reimbursement system established pursuant to this section and to
24 continue to secure federal financial participation for subsidized
25 child care programs for qualified low-to-moderate income
26 households.
27

28 2. The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant to the
29 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
30 1 et seq.) shall adopt such rules and regulations as necessary to
31 implement the provisions of this act.
32

33 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the second month
34 next following the date of enactment, but the Commissioner of
35 Human Services may take such anticipatory administrative action in
36 advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of
37 this act.
38
39

40 STATEMENT

41
42 This bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to
43 establish a tiered, quality-based reimbursement system for
44 registered family day care providers that participate in the State's
45 subsidized child care assistance program and are rated under the
46 Grow NJ Kids initiative. Grow NJ Kids is the State's quality rating
47 and improvement initiative for child care and early learning
48 programs, which reimburses child care providers based on objective

1 quality measures. State-licensed child care centers, school- or
2 center-based preschool programs, Head Start programs, and
3 registered family day care providers may request to be evaluated
4 and rated by Grow NJ Kids, based on the quality of child care
5 services provided for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Based
6 upon the outcome of this quality review, the Grow NJ Kids program
7 may award the provider a three-, four- or five-star rating.

8 New Jersey's subsidized child care assistance program currently
9 pays a higher rate to child care centers, Head Start programs, and
10 school- or center-based preschool programs that have a Grow NJ
11 Kids three-, four-, or five star rating. In calendar year 2021, tiered
12 incentive payments under the program range from five percent to
13 twenty percent above the base rate, depending upon the age of the
14 child receiving care and the facility's star rating. Although family
15 day care providers can request a Grow NJ Kids evaluation, these
16 providers are currently ineligible for the program's enhanced
17 payments to providers earning a three-, four-, or five-star rating. It
18 is the intent of the bill's sponsor to ensure that registered family day
19 care providers that offer high-quality care are reimbursed on an
20 equal basis as child care centers under the Grow NJ Kids program.