

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2291

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Provides categorical eligibility for subsidized child care services to certain child care workers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Children, Families and Food Security Committee on March 10, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/16/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning categorical eligibility for subsidized child care
2 services and supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. As used in this act, “qualifying child care worker” means
8 an educator or staff member who ¹:

9 (1)¹is employed ¹**[.]**¹ for a minimum of ¹**[20]** ¹**30**¹ hours per
10 week¹**[.]**¹ by a licensed child care center or registered family child
11 care provider¹;

12 (2) has children ages zero through five; and

13 (3) is not otherwise eligible for the State’s subsidized child care
14 assistance program¹.

15 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule, or
16 regulation to the contrary, a qualifying child care worker shall be
17 eligible for child care services through the State’s subsidized child
18 care assistance program to the same extent as any other participant
19 in the program, regardless of the family’s annual household income.

20 c. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish a
21 process by which the department shall confirm that a qualifying
22 child care worker satisfies the employment criteria required to
23 access the benefit established pursuant to this section.

24 d. The commissioner shall apply for such State plan
25 amendments or waivers as may be necessary to implement the
26 provisions of this act and to continue to secure federal financial
27 participation for subsidized child care services for eligible families
28 under the “Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990,”
29 Pub.L.97-35 (42 U.S.C. s.9857 et seq.), as amended.

30 e. ¹No later than three years after the effective date of this act,
31 the Commissioner of Human Services shall report to the Governor,
32 and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
33 (C.52:14-19.1), on the effectiveness of this benefit in fostering
34 recruitment and retention of teachers and staff for licensed child
35 care centers and registered family child care providers, including
36 the number of individuals eligible for this benefit and the number
37 who actually receive the benefit.

38 f.¹ The commissioner shall adopt such rules and regulations
39 pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410
40 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) as are necessary to carry out the purposes of
41 this act.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ACF committee amendments adopted March 10, 2025.

A2291 [1R] LOPEZ, SPEIGHT

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1 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
2 next following the date of enactment, but the Commissioner of
3 Human Services may take such anticipatory administrative action in
4 advance thereof as may be necessary for the implementation of this
5 act.