

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4642

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 25, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CHRIS TULLY

District 38 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS

District 20 (Union)

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen)

Senator RAJ MUKHERJI

District 32 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, Senators McKnight, Singer and A.M.Bucco

SYNOPSIS

Allows certain individuals eligible for family support services to set aside unused agency-after school care service hours for use before official school hours and during official school closures under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended on January 12, 2026 by the General Assembly pursuant to the Governor's recommendations.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/18/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning the Division of the Children's System of Care
2 and ¹**supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes** amending
3 and supplementing P.L.2024, c.24¹.
4

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

8 ¹1. Section 1 of P.L.2024, c.24 (C.30:4-25.24) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 1. a. The family of a child that is eligible to receive respite care
11 services for the child, which services are funded through the
12 Division of the Children's System of Care in the Department of
13 Children and Families, shall be eligible to receive no more than 90
14 hours of respite care services, provided by either an agency-hired or
15 self-hired respite worker, over a 90-day period, through funding
16 provided by the department.

17 b. The Commissioner of Children and Families shall use
18 available State and federal funds to effectuate the provisions of
19 subsection a. of this section.

20 c. As used in **this act** P.L.2024, c.24 and P.L. _____, c.
21 (C. _____) (pending before the Legislature as this bill):

22 "Agency-after school care" means social and recreational
23 experiences provided at a facility by a community-based agency
24 contracted with the Division of Children's System of Care to an
25 individual up to the age of 21 with a developmental disability
26 during after school hours and outside of the individual's home.

27 "Agency-hired respite worker" means a respite care worker who
28 is recruited, trained, and employed by a qualified agency under
29 contract with the Division of Children's System of Care in the
30 Department of Children and Families.

31 "Respite care" means the provision of temporary, short-term care
32 for, or the supervision of, an eligible child on behalf of the
33 caregiver, in emergencies or on an intermittent basis to relieve the
34 daily stresses and demands of caring for a child with a functional
35 impairment. Respite care may be provided hourly or daily, may be
36 provided by an agency-hired or self-hired respite worker or by a
37 volunteer, but may not exceed service and cost limitations as
38 determined by the Commissioner of Children and Families.

39 "Self-hired respite worker" means a respite care worker who is
40 recruited, trained, and paid directly by a family of a child that is
41 eligible for respite care services.¹

42 (cf: P.L.2024, c.24, s.1)

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 amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's
recommendations January 12, 2026.

1 ¹**[1. a.] 2. (New section)**¹ Notwithstanding any law, rule, or
2 regulation to the contrary, the Division of Children's System of
3 Care in the Department of Children and Families shall ensure that
4 once an individual up to the age of 21 with a developmental
5 disability has been authorized to receive services from an
6 ¹**[agency]** agency-after school program¹ contracted with the
7 division to provide family support services, the family or guardian
8 of the individual shall be allowed to ¹**[set aside]** utilize¹ any
9 amount of unused agency- after school care service hours, offered
10 by the same agency contracted with the division to provide after
11 school care to the individual, for use ¹before official school hours
12 and during official school closures provided that the closure occurs
13 during an otherwise official school day¹ during ¹**[holiday and**
14 **weekend hours]** the 90-day authorization period¹.

15 ¹**[b.** As used in this section, "agency-after school care" means
16 social and recreational experiences provided by a community-based
17 agency contracted with the Division of Children's System of Care
18 to an individual up to the age of 21 with a developmental disability
19 during after school hours and outside of the individual's home.**]**¹
20

21 ¹**[2.] 3. (New section)**¹ The Department of Children and
22 Families shall promulgate rules and regulations, pursuant to the
23 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
24 seq.) as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of ¹**[this act]**
25 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)¹.
26

27 ¹**[3.] 4.**¹ This act shall take effect ¹**[immediately]** on the 90th
28 day after enactment¹.