

Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Lightbody and White

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

 Requiring the initial eligibility for publicly funded child care (PFCC) be set no lower than 200% of the federal poverty level could result in a significant increase in costs for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires that the Director of ODJFS set the threshold for initial and transitional eligibility for publicly funded child care (PFCC) to be no lower than 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL).¹ According to ODJFS, increasing the initial eligibility threshold for publicly funded child care from 130% FPL to 150% FPL would increase spending by about \$36.4 million in FY 2022 and \$43.4 million in FY 2023, after accounting for market rate increases, to serve those who are newly eligible. The cost of serving those earning between 150% FPL and 200% FPL is indeterminate but would cost millions of dollars per year. Even with a likely increase in applications, the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association stated that this change will not require county departments of job and family services to use local funds to pay for additional determinations.

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¹ About \$44,000 per year for a family of three in 2021.