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H.B. 7
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Children and Human Services

Primary Sponsors: Reps. A. White and Ray

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SUMMARY

- Guarantees publicly funded child care (PFCC) for foster caregivers and kinship caregivers, to be provided for a child who is placed with such a caregiver.
- Requires a foster caregiver or kinship caregiver to be employed or participating in an education or training program in order to be eligible for PFCC.
- Specifies that the PFCC guaranteed by the bill may be provided by a licensed child care program or a border state child care provider.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Publicly funded child care for foster and kinship caregivers

The bill guarantees publicly funded child care (PFCC) for foster caregivers and kinship caregivers regardless of income.[1] To be eligible, a foster caregiver or kinship caregiver must be employed or participating in an education or training program for an amount of time reasonably related to the time that the child is receiving PFCC. The benefit may be provided only for a child that is placed with a foster caregiver or kinship caregiver.[2]

Under current law, PFCC is guaranteed for individuals participating in or transitioning from the Ohio Works First Program. For others, PFCC eligibility is subject to the availability of funds. For those families, until June 30, 2027, the maximum amount of family income for initial PFCC eligibility cannot exceed 145% of the federal poverty level (FPL), or 150% for special needs child care. For continued eligibility, the maximum amount cannot exceed 300% FPL.[3] The

[1] R.C. 5104.30(A)(4).

[2] R.C. 5104.303(A) and (B).

[3] R.C. 5104.38 and Section 423.230 of H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly.

Department of Children and Youth (DCY) is the agency responsible for regulating child care and administering PFCC.

Authorized providers

The bill specifies that only the following entities may provide PFCC for a foster caregiver or kinship caregiver:

- A child care center, including a parent cooperative child care center, that is licensed by DCY;
- A type A family child care home, including a parent cooperative type A family child care home, that is licensed by DCY;
- A type B family child care home that is licensed by DCY;
- A preschool program that is licensed by DCY;
- A school child program that is licensed by DCY;
- A border state child care provider that is licensed by a state bordering Ohio, except that the provider may provide PFCC only to an individual who resides in an Ohio county that borders the state in which the provider is located.

The following table describes each of the in-state licensed child care programs under existing law:[4]

Child Care Providers

Type	Description/Number of children served	Regulatory system
Child care center	Any place that is not the permanent residence of the provider in which child care is provided for 7 or more children at one time.	A child care center must be licensed by DCY, regardless of whether it provides PFCC.
Family child care home	**Type A home** – a permanent residence of an administrator in which child care is provided as follows: ▪ For 8-14 children at one time; or ▪ For 4-14 children at one time if 4 or more are under age 2.	A type A home must be licensed by DCY, regardless of whether it provides PFCC.
	Type B home – a permanent residence of the provider in which child care is provided as follows:	To be eligible to provide PFCC, a type B home must be licensed by DCY.

[4] R.C. 5104.01(L), (EE), (FF), (GG), (XX), and (YY), 5104.31, and 3301.52(A), (B), (I), and (J), not in the bill.

Type	Description/Number of children served	Regulatory system
	▪ For 1-7 children at one time; and ▪ No more than 3 children at one time under age 2.	
Preschool program	A child care program operated by a school district board of education or eligible nonpublic school for children who have not entered kindergarten and are not of compulsory school age, OR A child care program operated by a county board of developmental disabilities or community school for children age three and older who have not entered kindergarten and are not of compulsory school age.	To be eligible to provide PFCC, a preschool program must be licensed by DCY.
School child program	A child care program that is operated by a school district board of education, county board of developmental disabilities, community school, or eligible nonpublic school for children as follows: ▪ For children enrolled in or eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten or a grade above; and ▪ Less than 15 years old.	To be eligible to provide PFCC, a school child program must be licensed by DCY.

Definitions

The bill incorporates existing law definitions of a foster caregiver and kinship caregiver. A foster caregiver is a person who holds a valid foster home certificate. A kinship caregiver is any of the following who is 18 years old and is caring for a child in place of the child's parents:[5]

1. The following individuals related by blood or adoption to the child:
   a. Grandparents, including grandparents with the prefix "great," "great-great," or "great-great-great";
   b. Siblings;

[5] R.C. 5104.30(A)(4); R.C. 5103.02(C) and 5101.85, not in the bill.

c. Aunts, uncles, nephews, and nieces, including such relatives with the prefix "great," "great-great," "grand," or "great-grand";

d. First cousins and first cousins once removed;

2. Stepparents and stepsiblings of the child;

3. Spouses and former spouses of individuals named in #1 and #2;

4. A legal guardian of the child;

5. A legal custodian of the child;

6. Any nonrelative adult that has a familiar and long-standing relationship or bond with the child or the family, which relationship or bond will ensure the child's social ties.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-23-25
Reported, H. Children and Human Services	06-09-26

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