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H.B. 484
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Children and Human Services

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Click and Odioso

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Children and Youth to establish the Workforce Investment Now (WIN) for Child Care pilot program to provide publicly funded child care to child care staff members, regardless of family income, to operate during FY's 2026 and 2027.
- Makes an appropriation.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

WIN for Child Care pilot program

The bill requires the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) to establish the Workforce Investment Now (WIN) for Child Care pilot program to provide publicly funded child care (PFCC) to individuals employed as child care staff members regardless of family income. This includes employees of child care centers, type A family child care homes, and licensed type B family child care homes who are primarily responsible for the care and supervision of children. It excludes employees of approved child day camps and administrators, authorized representatives, or owners of child care facilities. Subject to available funds, the pilot program must operate during FY's 2026 and 2027.[1]

Within six months after the conclusion of the WIN for Child Care pilot program, DCY must complete a report on the information collected and findings from the pilot program and submit it to the Governor and the General Assembly.[2]

Under existing law maintained by the bill, to be eligible for PFCC, both of the following conditions must be met:

[1] Section 1(A) to (C); R.C. 5104.01(O), not in bill.

[2] Section 1(D).

- The child in need of care must be under age 13 or, in the case of a special needs child, under age 18;
- The child's caretaker parent must be employed or participating in an education or training program for an amount of time reasonably related to the time the children are receiving PFCC.[3]

A child care staff member employed by a child care center or family care home also must satisfy these requirements to receive PFCC under the bill.[4]

Additionally, the bill provides PFCC eligibility for child care staff members without regard to income by requiring the county department of job and family services to exclude all of a family's income in determining eligibility if an applicant demonstrates that the child's caretaker parent is a child care staff member who works a minimum of 20 hours per week.[5]

PFCC eligibility under current law

Current Ohio law guarantees PFCC for Ohio Works First (cash assistance) participants and transitional child care recipients.[6] Transitional child care allows an individual to continue receiving PFCC for a 12-month period after participating in Ohio Works First. Such an individual must need child care due to employment, and the individual's income must not exceed 150% of the federal poverty level (FPL).[7] Receipt of PFCC by others is subject to available funds and income eligibility limits.

At present, a family's maximum income for initial eligibility for PFCC must not exceed 145% FPL. For special needs child care, the maximum amount for initial eligibility must not exceed 150% FPL. And for continuing eligibility, the maximum amount must not exceed 300% FPL.[8]

Appropriation

The bill appropriates $20 million in fiscal year 2026 towards the pilot program. Any amount that is left over after FY 2026 is reappropriated for FY 2027.[9]

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-29-25
Reported, H. Children and Human Services	06-09-26

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[3] R.C. 5104.34, not in the bill.

[4] Section 1(C).

[5] Section 1(C).

[6] R.C. 5104.30(A), not in the bill.

[7] R.C. 5104.34(A)(3), not in the bill.

[8] Section 423.230 of H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly; R.C. 5104.38, not in bill.

[9] Section 3.