S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

6672

I N S E N A T E

February 4, 2016

Introduced by Sen. MONTGOMERY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to direct the office of children and family services to examine, evaluate and make recommendations on the availability of day care for children, and determine the unmet need of child care subsidies; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The office of children and family services shall examine, evaluate and make recommendations concerning the availability of funding for day care for children in the state. Such office shall pay particular attention to the impact of the lack of necessary child day care upon the ability of working families to achieve self-sufficiency and a better standard of living.

The office of children and family services shall direct its attention to:

(a) establishing an inventory of child day care for working families and those at or near poverty;

(b) identifying child day care shortage areas on a regional basis and providing projections of the future demand of the next five to ten years for child day care based on the regional birth rates, employment and population growth rates;

(c) comparing on a statewide and regional basis, the demand for child day care services over the succeeding five to ten years, including whether the projected growth rate in the child day care industry will be sufficient to meet such future needs;

(d) offering recommendations to the department of labor and any other relevant agencies as to how the labor force can help meet the projected shortage;

(e) identifying policies that would encourage the establishment and operation of more child day care center providers, and increasing the capacity of existing child day care providers;

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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(f) assessing the cost to parents and guardians of day care for children on a regional basis, including the availability of government funds for parents and guardians toward child care costs;

(g) identifying which social services districts have insufficient funding to serve all eligible families and determining whether they are receiving no new cases or restricting eligibility based upon set income levels;

(h) reviewing the number and percentage of eligible families receiving child care subsidies in this state, as compared to other states, and report on any policy approaches in use in other states that could be useful for consideration in this state;

(i) identifying which social services districts maintain waiting lists for eligible families seeking child care subsidies;

(j) calculating the total sum of families statewide that are awaiting child care subsidies and the projected fiscal impact to the state if all eligible families are served;

(k) comparing the income levels of families receiving child care subsidies on a regional basis to determine what inequities exist across the state;

(l) examining the use of child care funding by local social services districts to provide transportation to child care and determining the unmet need for this service; and

(m) identifying policies that would encourage and facilitate expansion of quality child day care services by neighbors and in communities where the working poor live and/or work; and identifying and quantifying those factors that contribute to establishing quality child day care in communities with the greatest need.

S 2. The office of children and family services may request and shall receive any available information from state agencies that is relevant and material to the study required by section one of this act.

S 3. Within twelve months of the effective date of this act, the commissioner of children and family services shall submit a report, to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly, on the office's findings, conclusions and recommendations, and shall submit therewith such legislative proposals as the office of children and family services shall deem necessary to implement its recommendations. In addition, such office shall make such report available to the public and post it on the internet website operated by the office.

S 4. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire and be deemed repealed one year after such date.