

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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4858

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 8, 2021

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Introduced by M. of A. JEAN-PIERRE, COOK, DICKENS, FAHY, JOYNER, VANEL, WALSH, WILLIAMS, OTIS, DE LA ROSA, SIMON, RAMOS, THIELE, REYES, L. ROSENTHAL, WALCZYK, RA, FRONTUS, CRUZ, PICHARDO, BUTTENSCHON, BARRON, NIOU -- read once and referred 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 child day care and child care assistance, 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:

1 Section 1. 1. The office of children and family services shall exam-  
2 ine, evaluate and make recommendations concerning the availability of  
3 funding for day care for children in the state. Such office shall pay  
4 particular attention to the impact of the lack of necessary child day  
5 care upon the ability of working families to achieve self-sufficiency  
6 and a better standard of living.  
7 The office of children and family services shall direct its attention  
8 to:  
9 (a) establishing an inventory of child day care for working families  
10 and those at or near poverty;  
11 (b) identifying child day care shortage areas on a regional basis and  
12 providing projections of the future demand of the next five to ten years  
13 for child day care based on the regional birth rates, employment and  
14 population growth rates;  
15 (c) comparing on a statewide and regional basis, the demand for child  
16 day care services over the succeeding five to ten years, including  
17 whether the projected growth rate in the child day care industry will be  
18 sufficient to meet such future needs;

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

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

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

7 (f) assessing the cost to parents and guardians of day care for chil-  
8 dren on a regional basis, including the availability of government funds  
9 for parents and guardians toward child care costs;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (n) examining the feasibility of implementing a standard family share  
35 percentage for child care cost co-payments across the state.

36 2. (a) Each social services district shall submit data regarding the  
37 income of families who applied for child care assistance pursuant to  
38 this act to the department, specifying:

39 (i) the number of families who were denied;

40 (ii) the number of families who received such assistance; and

41 (iii) a listing of the incomes pursuant to subparagraph (ii) of para-  
42 graph (b) of this subdivision of the families who applied for such  
43 assistance.

44 (b) Each social services district shall submit data regarding the  
45 number of all families who applied for and received child care assist-  
46 ance pursuant to this act whose:

47 (i) incomes were under one hundred one percent of the federal poverty  
48 level for their family size;

49 (ii) incomes were between one hundred one percent and one hundred  
50 fifty percent of the federal poverty level for their family size; and

51 (iii) incomes were between one hundred fifty-one percent and two  
52 hundred percent of the federal poverty level for their family size.

53 (c) Each social services district shall submit data regarding the  
54 number of all families who applied for and were denied child care  
55 assistance pursuant to this act whose:

1 (i) incomes were under one hundred one percent of the federal poverty  
2 level for their family size;

3 (ii) incomes were between one hundred one percent and one hundred  
4 fifty percent of the federal poverty level for their family size; and

5 (iii) incomes were between one hundred fifty-one percent and two  
6 hundred percent of the federal poverty level for their family size.

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

10 § 3. Within twelve months of the effective date of this act, the  
11 commissioner of children and family services shall submit a report, to  
12 the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the  
13 assembly, the minority leader of the senate, the minority leader of the  
14 assembly, and the child care availability task force established pursu-  
15 ant to section 390-k of the social services law, on the office's find-  
16 ings, conclusions and recommendations, and shall submit therewith such  
17 legislative proposals as the office of children and family services  
18 shall deem necessary to implement its recommendations. In addition, such  
19 office shall make such report available to the public and post it on the  
20 internet website operated by the office.

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