STATE OF NEW YORK

8031

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

June 7, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. PEOPLES-STOKES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

AN ACT to amend chapter 53 of the laws of 2021, enacting the aid to localities budget, in relation to funding for the child care facilitated enrollment program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 1 of chapter 53 of the laws of 2021, enacting the aid to localities budget, is amended by repealing the items herein below set forth in brackets and by adding to such section the other items underscored in this section:

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE
OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

AID TO LOCALITIES 2021-22

CHILD CARE PROGRAM 3,289,971,200

General Fund
Local Assistance Account - 10000

Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of law, the funds appropriated herein shall be available for transfer to the federal health and human services fund, local assistance account, federal day care account to operate and support enrollment in the child care facilitated enrollment pilot program which expand access to child

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

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care subsidies for working families who live or are employed in Erie County with income up to 275 percent of the federal poverty level as provided to the [~~Consortium for Worker Education~~] **NYS AFL-CIO Workforce Development Institute** to administer and to implement a plan approved by the office of children and family services. The administrative cost, including the cost of the development of the evaluation of the pilot program shall not exceed ten percent of the funds available for the purpose. The remaining portion of the funds shall be allocated to the office of children and family services to the local social services district where the recipient families reside as determined by the project administrator based on projected need and cost of providing child care subsidies payment to working families enrolled through the pilot initiative, provided however the local social services district shall not reimburse subsidy payment in excess of the amount the subsidy funding appropriated herein can support and the applicable local social services district shall not be required to approve or pay for subsidies not funded herein. Child care subsidies paid on behalf of eligible families shall be reimbursed at the actual cost of care up to the applicable market rate for the district in which the child care is provided and in accordance with the fee schedule of the local social services district making the subsidy payment. Up to ten percent of funds available for this purpose shall be made available to the [~~Consortium for Worker Education~~] **NYS AFL-CIO Workforce Development Institute**, or other designated administrator, to administer and to implement a plan approved by the office of children and family services for this pilot program. This administrator shall prepare and submit to the office of children and family services, the chairs of the senate committee on social services, the senate committee on children and families, the senate committee on labor, the chairs of the assembly committee on children and families, the assembly committee on social services, and the assembly committee on labor a report on the pilot program with recommendations. Such report shall include available information regarding the pilot program or participants in the pilot

program, including but not limited to: the number of income eligible children of working parents with income greater than 200 percent but at or less than 275 percent of the federal poverty level, the ages of the children served by the program, the number of families served by the program who are in receipt of family assistance, the factors that parents considered when searching for child care, the factors that barred the families' access to child care assistance prior to their enrollment in the facilitated enrollment program, the number of families who receive a child care subsidy pursuant to this program who choose to use such subsidy for regulated child care, and the number of families who receive a child care subsidy pursuant to this program who choose to use such subsidy to receive child care services provided by a legally exempt provider. Such report shall be submitted by the program administrator, on or before November 1, 2021, provided that if such report is not received by November 30, 2021, reimbursement for administrative costs shall be either reduced or withheld, and failure of an administrator to submit a timely report may jeopardize such administrator's program from receiving funding in future years. The administrator for this pilot program shall submit bimonthly reports to the office of children and family services, the local social services district, the administration for children's services, and the legislature. Each bi-monthly report shall provide without benefit of personal identifying information, the pilot program's current enrollment level, amount of the child's subsidy, co-payment levels, and any other information as needed or required by the office of children and family services. Further, the office of children and family services shall provide technical assistance to the pilot program to assist with program administration and timely coordination of the bi-monthly claiming process. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this pilot program maintained herein may be terminated if the administrator for such program mismanages such program, by engaging in actions including but not limited to, improper use of funds, providing for child care subsidies in excess of the

amount the subsidy funding appropriated herein can support, and failing to submit claims for reimbursement in a timely fashion 500,000

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be deemed to have been in full force and effect on and after April 1, 2021.