STATE OF NEW YORK

9282

IN SENATE

May 12, 2022

Introduced by Sen. SERINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to establishing the child care and early childhood education innovation program; to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing the child care and early childhood education innovation fund; and making an appropriation therefor

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

Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new section 410-bbb to read as follows:

§ 410-bbb. Child care and early childhood education innovation program. 1. The office of children and family services shall establish a child care and early childhood education innovation program. Such program shall:

(a) identify, develop and support projects that accelerate the start-up and expansion of licensed child care businesses;

(b) identify, develop and support projects throughout the state designed to increase the employment retention of individuals who are employed as child care workers;

(c) identify, develop and support projects throughout the state to collaborate on child care solutions with employers to improve the productivity, recruitment, and retention of their working families;

(d) identify, develop and support projects throughout the state designed to increase the economic viability and sustainability of child care businesses; and

(e) grant awards pursuant to subdivision two of this section, subject to appropriation, to the child care and early childhood education innovation fund established pursuant to section ninety-nine-pp of the state finance law.

2. The office of children and family services shall grant awards to projects identified or developed pursuant to subdivision one of this section.

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

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3. Awards granted pursuant to subdivision two of this section shall be granted for both for-profit and not-for-profit projects, local government projects, and, to the greatest extent practicable, be granted uniformly throughout both rural and urban areas of the state.

4. The commissioner of the office of children and family services is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this section.

§ 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-pp to read as follows:

§ 99-pp. Child care and early childhood education innovation fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the commissioner of the office of children and family services and the comptroller, a special fund to be known as the "child care and early childhood education innovation fund".

2. Such fund shall consist of all monies appropriated, credited, or transferred thereto from any other fund or source pursuant to law. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the state from receiving grants, gifts, or bequests for the purposes of the fund, as defined in this section, and depositing them into the fund according to law.

3. Monies of the fund shall be expended only for the purposes of granting awards pursuant to section four hundred ten-bbb of the social services law.

4. Monies of the fund shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers approved and certified by the commissioner of the office of children and family services.

5. To the extent practicable, the commissioner of the office of children and family services shall ensure that all monies received during a fiscal year are expended prior to the end of that fiscal year.

§ 3. The sum of five million dollars ($5,000,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated from any monies in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes account not otherwise appropriated to the child care and early childhood education innovation fund for the purposes of granting awards by the child care and early childhood education innovation program in carrying out the provisions of this act. Such sum shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the state comptroller on vouchers certified or approved in the manner provided by law.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.