STATE OF NEW YORK

10520

IN ASSEMBLY

March 6, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. MAHER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to directing local social services districts to implement an income eligibility standard when available child care block grant funding is nearing exhaustion

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 410-x of the social services law, as amended by chapter 416 of the laws of 2000, is amended to read as follows:

1. **(a)** A social services district shall expend its allocation from the block grant in a manner that provides for equitable access to child care assistance funds to eligible families, and in accordance with the applicable provisions in federal law regarding the portion of the funds which must be spent on families in receipt of family assistance, families who are attempting through work activities to transition off of family assistance and families at-risk of becoming dependent on family assistance and the portion which must be spent on other working low-income families. Each social services district may spend no more than five percent of its block grant allocation for administrative activities. The term "administrative activities" shall not include the costs of providing direct services.

(b) When a social services district projects that allocated child care block grant funds will be insufficient to open all eligible non-guaranteed cases, the district may promulgate and implement an income eligibility standard for recipients, provided such district shall continue to ensure priority populations, as identified by the office of children and family services in 18 NYCRR 415.2, have access to child care assistance. For the first month that a social services district projects that allocated child care block grant funds will be insufficient to open all eligible non-guaranteed cases, such income eligibility standard for recipients shall be no higher than three hundred percent of the federal poverty level. For the second month that a social services district projects that allocated child care block grant funds will be insuffi-

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

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cient to open all eligible non-guaranteed cases, such income eligibility standard for recipients shall be no higher than two hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level. For the succeeding month and any months thereafter, the social services district may reduce such income eligibility standard by increments of twenty-five percent until such standard reaches one hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty level.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.