STATE OF NEW YORK

8819

IN SENATE

January 8, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to requiring social services districts to maintain a waiting list of certain families applying for child care assistance

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

Section 1. Section 410-z of the social services law, as amended by a chapter of the laws of 2025 amending the social services law relating to requiring social services districts to maintain a waiting list of certain families applying for child care assistance, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 1926 and A. 7145, is amended to read as follows:

§ 410-z. Reporting requirements. [~~1.~~] Each social services district shall collect and submit to the office of children and family services, in such form and at such times as specified by the office of children and family services, such data and information regarding child care assistance provided under the block grant as the office of children and family services may need to comply with federal reporting requirements.

[~~2. (a) Each social services district shall maintain a waiting list of eligible families who have applied for child care assistance pursuant to this title and who have not received such assistance. Such waiting list shall contain information including, but not limited to:~~

~~(i) the date the child care assistance was requested;~~

~~(ii) the date the child care assistance was received;~~

~~(iii) the age of the child or children the assistance was requested on behalf of; and~~

~~(iv) the total number of families on such waiting list as of the first day of each month.~~

~~(b) Each district shall issue a report to the office of children and family services by October fifteenth, two thousand twenty-seven, and annually thereafter detailing month-to-month information required pursuant to this subdivision for the preceding period of October first through September thirtieth, and shall include the following:~~

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

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~~(i) the average length of time for families on the waiting list;~~
~~(ii) the number of families on the waiting list for each of the following time periods:~~
~~(A) less than two weeks,~~
~~(B) two weeks to less than a month,~~
~~(C) one month to less than three months,~~
~~(D) three months to less than six months,~~
~~(E) six months to less than a year, and~~
~~(F) one year or more;~~
~~(iii) the average age of children represented on the waiting list;~~
~~(iv) the number of children represented on the waiting list eligible for each:~~
~~(A) infant,~~
~~(B) toddler,~~
~~(C) pre-school, and~~
~~(D) school-aged subsidized child care slots; and~~
~~(v) the number of existing infant, toddler, pre-school and school-aged subsidized child care slots;~~
~~(vi) the number of families who would receive child care assistance except that they are waiting for available slots in a particular child care program; and~~
~~(vii) other information as the district deems appropriate.~~
~~3. (a) Each social services district shall collect data regarding the income of families who applied for child care assistance pursuant to this title, specifying:~~
~~(i) the number of families who were denied;~~
~~(ii) the number of families who received such assistance; and~~
~~(iii) a listing of the incomes pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subdivision of the families who applied for such assistance.~~
~~(b) Each district shall issue a report to the office of children and family services by October fifteenth, two thousand twenty-seven, and annually thereafter, detailing month-to-month information collected pursuant to this subdivision for the preceding period of October first through September thirtieth, and shall include the following:~~
~~(i) the number of all families who applied for and received child care assistance pursuant to this title whose:~~
~~(A) incomes were under fifty percent of the state median income level for their family size,~~
~~(B) incomes were between fifty percent and seventy-five percent of the state median income level for their family size, and~~
~~(C) incomes were between seventy-five and eighty-five percent of the state median income level for their family size; and~~
~~(ii) the number of all families who applied for and were denied child care assistance pursuant to this title whose:~~
~~(A) incomes were under fifty percent of the state median income level for their family size,~~
~~(B) incomes were between fifty percent and seventy-five percent of the state median income level for their family size, and~~
~~(C) incomes were between seventy-five percent and eighty-five percent of the state median income level for their family size.~~
~~4. The office of children and family services shall compile such reports pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision two, and paragraph (b) of subdivision three of this section, into one comprehensive report containing all required information on a county by county basis. Such report shall be provided to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, the chairperson of the assembly~~

~~committee on children and families, the chairperson of the senate committee on children and families, the chairperson of the assembly committee on social services, the chairperson of the senate committee on social services, the chairperson of the assembly ways and means committee and the chairperson of the senate finance committee no later than December first, two thousand twenty-seven, and annually thereafter.~~

~~5. Reports issued and compiled under this section shall not use the name, address, or any other identifying information of an individual who is the subject of the report and shall ensure the anonymity of those included in the reports.~~]

§ 2. The social services law is amended by adding a new section 410-aa to read as follows:

§ 410-aa. Waitlist requirements. 1. Each social services district shall maintain a waiting list of families who have applied for child care assistance pursuant to this title but have not been authorized for such assistance due to a lack of available funds under either the district's allocation from the state child care block grant program or any local funds appropriated for such program. Such waiting list shall contain:

(a) the date the child care assistance was requested;

(b) the date the eligibility determination or redetermination was made;

(c) the age of the child or children the assistance was requested on behalf of;

(d) whether the family was a new applicant or recertifying; and

(e) the total number of families on such waiting list.

2. The office shall post annually on their website the total number of families on the waitlist for each social services district.

3. (a) Each social services district shall collect data regarding the families who applied for child care assistance pursuant to this title, specifying:

(i) the number of families who were denied because they were determined ineligible for assistance, including: (A) the family size, (B) the income of those families, where available; and (C) the age of the child, where available;

(ii) the number of families who were placed on a waitlist, including: (A) the family size; (B) the income of those families, where available; and (C) the age of the child, where available; and

(iii) the number of families who received such assistance, including: (A) the family size; (B) the income of those families, where available; and (C) the age of the child, where available.

(b) Each social services district shall provide the information collected pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision to the office annually. The office shall re-post this information on their website upon receipt.

§ 3. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require local social services districts to maintain waiting lists for dates preceding the effective date of this act, or to collect data pursuant to subdivision 2 of section 410-aa of the social services law, as added by section two of this act, for persons who applied for subsidized child care prior to the effective date of this act.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2025 amending the social services law relating to requiring social services districts to maintain a waiting list of certain families applying for child care assistance, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 1926 and A. 7145, takes effect.