STATE OF NEW YORK

9088

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

September 12, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. HUNTER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the military law, in relation to establishing a weekend child day care assistance program for New York army and air national guard members

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

Section 1. The military law is amended by adding a new section 257 to read as follows:

§ 257. Weekend child day care assistance program. 1. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "New York national guard" means both the New York army national guard established under section forty-one of this chapter, and the New York air national guard established under section forty-two of this chapter.

(b) "The program" means the weekend child day care assistance program established pursuant to subdivision two of this section.

(c) "Dual-military family" means a two-parent family where both such parents are enlisted as members of the New York national guard, or any other federal military branch.

(d) "Child day care" shall have the same meaning as defined by section three hundred ninety of the social services law.

(e) "Child care provider" means an entity operating as a child day care center or family day care home under section three hundred ninety of the social services law.

2. The division of military and naval affairs, in conjunction with the office of children and family services, shall develop and implement a "weekend child day care assistance program" to benefit members of the New York national guard, including development of an initial registration process, and a monthly reservation process for New York national guard members to reserve child day care with a child care provider.

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

LBD10851-02-5

3. The program shall provide free hourly child day care, at a child care provider that has opted to participate in the program, for New York national guard members during scheduled weekend drill periods, for up to twelve hours. Such child day care shall be reimbursable as provided in this section. New York national guard members seeking to enroll in the program shall make an initial application to the program, and once assisted, shall reserve child day care under the program monthly at a child care provider participating in the program.

4. All child day care costs shall be processed directly to the child care provider and processed in accordance with the program policies, dependent on submission of completed attendance sheets. No payments shall be guaranteed until a final approval certificate has been sent to both the New York national guard member enrolled in the program and child care provider. It shall be the responsibility of both the New York national guard member enrolled in the program and child care provider to review all approvals for accuracy, and to report any inaccuracies as soon as possible.

5. New York national guard members enrolled in the program shall:

(a) Be in good standing with their unit, which shall include, at a minimum, having attended all required drills, completed assigned tasks, and maintained compliance with uniform requirements;

(b) Prove that no other adult in such New York national guard member's household is able to care for such member's child or children during the scheduled drill weekend; and

(c) Either: (i) Be a single parent, or be part of a dual-military family where such New York national guard member's spouse is participating in a drill during the same weekend, is deployed, or is attending service-related classes or training on a drill weekend; or

(ii) Have enrolled their child or children in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System as dependents of such New York national guard member, if such child or children are between the ages of six weeks to twelve years old.

6. Child care providers participating in the program shall:

(a) Maintain compliance with section three hundred ninety of the social services law;

(b) Submit to an advanced Federal Bureau of Investigation federal fingerprint background check and federal Child Abuse Registry check conducted and adjudicated by the department of social services for any child day care employees, and for family day care homes, as such term is defined by section three hundred ninety of the social services law, all household members aged eighteen years and older;

(c) Maintain a child day care liability insurance policy coverage of at least five hundred thousand dollars; and

(d) Maintain a certification in first aid and infant/child cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.