

Senate Bill 216

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Butler of the 55th, Miller of the 49th, Harrell of the 40th,
Sims of the 12th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 1A of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions relative to early care and learning, so as to establish an early
3 child care scholarship program subject to appropriations by the General Assembly; to provide
4 for eligibility; to provide for authority to establish procedures, criteria, and guidelines for
5 such program; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 1A of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 general provisions relative to early care and learning, is amended by adding a new Code
11 section to read as follows:

12 "20-1A-19.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Family income' means the monthly income of all members of a household with the
15 exception of a minor or dependent student.

16 (2) 'Income' means all earnings, from whatever source derived, including, but not limited
17 to, wages, salaries, social security or railroad retirement income, public assistance
18 income, realized capital gains, and workers' compensation.

19 (3) 'Monthly payments' means amounts paid per month to a provider for child care
20 services for a child under five years of age not enrolled in a pre-kindergarten program.

21 (4) 'Provider' means a licensed family child care learning home or child care learning
22 center.

23 (5) 'Qualified applicant' means any person who demonstrates payment of two or more
24 monthly payments of which the average of two payments exceeds 7 percent of the family
25 income.

26 (b) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the department shall establish an
27 early child care scholarship program for any dependent child of any qualified applicant.
28 Such scholarship shall be in the amount of monthly payments that exceed 7 percent of the
29 family income and shall be paid directly to the provider for a qualified applicant. The
30 department shall develop application procedures, criteria, and guidelines for the
31 implementation of this Code section, including qualifying sources of income. A qualified
32 applicant shall furnish such information as may be required by the department for
33 determination of eligibility.

34 (c) The department shall be responsible for establishing a maximum allowable amount for
35 eligible monthly payments through its rules and regulations.

36 (d) The funds necessary to provide for the monthly payments pursuant to this Code section
37 shall come from funds appropriated for such purposes by the General Assembly; provided,
38 however, that nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require the General
39 Assembly to appropriate any such funds."

40 **SECTION 2.**

41 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.