

2015 -- H 5543

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LC001650
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - CHILD CARE - STATE SUBSIDIES

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Slater, Ruggiero, Tanzi, and Maldonado

Date Introduced: February 25, 2015

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 40-6.2-1.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-6.2 entitled "Child
2 Care-State Subsidies" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **40-6.2-1.1. Rates established.** -- (a) Subject to the payment limitations in section (b), the
4 maximum reimbursement rates to be paid by the departments of human services and children,
5 youth and families for licensed child care centers and certified family-child care providers shall
6 be based on the following schedule of the 75th percentile of the 2002 weekly market rates
7 adjusted for the average of the 75th percentile of the 2002 and the 2004 weekly market rates:

8	LICENSED	75th
9	CHILD CARE	PERCENTILE
10	CENTERS	OF WEEKLY
11		MARKET RATE
12	INFANT	\$182.00
13	PRESCHOOL	\$150.00
14	SCHOOL-AGE	\$135.00
15	CERTIFIED	75th
16	FAMILY	PERCENTILE
17	CHILD CARE	OF WEEKLY
18	PROVIDERS	MARKET RATE
19	INFANT	\$150.00

1	PRESCHOOL	\$150.00
2	SCHOOL-AGE	\$135.00

3 (b) The department shall pay child care providers based on the lesser of the applicable
4 rate specified in subsection (a), or the lowest rate actually charged by the provider to any of its
5 public or private child care customers with respect to each of the rate categories, infant, preschool
6 and school-age.

7 (c) By June 30, 2004 and biennially thereafter, the department of labor and training shall
8 conduct an independent survey or certify an independent survey of the then current weekly
9 market rates for child care in Rhode Island and shall forward such weekly market rate survey to
10 the department of human services. The departments of human services and labor and training will
11 jointly determine the survey criteria including, but not limited to, rate categories and sub-
12 categories. The 75th percentile of weekly market rates in the table in subsection (a) shall be
13 adjusted by the surveys conducted under this subsection, beginning January 1, 2006 and for the
14 purposes of this section, and until adjusted in accordance with this subsection, the 75th percentile
15 of weekly market rate shall be the average of the 2002 and 2004 weekly market rate surveys.

16 (d) In order to expand the accessibility and availability of quality child care, the
17 department of human services is authorized to establish by regulation alternative or incentive
18 rates of reimbursement for quality enhancements, innovative or specialized child care and
19 alternative methodologies of child care delivery, including non-traditional delivery systems and
20 collaborations.

21 (e) On or before January 1, 2007, all child care providers have the option to be paid every
22 two (2) weeks and have the option of automatic direct deposit and/or electronic funds transfer of
23 reimbursement payments.

24 (f) On or before October 31, 2015, the department shall develop and submit to the general
25 assembly for approval a plan for licensed child care centers and family child care providers to
26 develop a system of tiered reimbursement rates with higher rates being issued to programs
27 recognized as "higher quality" by the department's quality rating and improvement system.
28 Provided further, the plan shall include specific programs to support quality improvement and
29 advancement in the department's quality rating system. Said programs shall include, but not be
30 limited to, the following:

31 (1) Comprehensive workforce development programs to assist licensed child care
32 providers to pursue high school equivalency diplomas, associate's degrees, bachelor's degrees,
33 college credits in early child care and education, and any other program the director shall approve
34 or deem necessary.

1 (g) The director is directed and authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary
2 to carry out the provisions of this section.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would require the department of human services to establish and submit to the
2 general assembly, a reimbursement rate plan based on the quality of the licensed child and family
3 care centers to be determined by the department's quality and rating system.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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