

HOUSE BILL 1336

By Camper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 9; Title 37 and Title 71, relative to funding
child care services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 7, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) This section is known and may be cited as the "Workers Need Child Care Act."

(b) There is created within the state general fund a special account to be known as the child care infrastructure fund (the fund). The purpose of the fund is to align child care with workforce development needs.

(c) The department of economic and community development shall administer the fund.

(d) The fund is composed of money appropriated by the general assembly for the fund, and gifts, grants, and other donations received by the department for the fund.

(e) The department shall allocate and disperse grants each fiscal year from the fund to nonprofit entities to be expended only for establishing a new licensed child care agency in this state.

(f) Money in the fund may be used by the department for program administration, marketing expenses and program evaluation; however, such expenses shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the total amount appropriated for the program in any fiscal year.

(g) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund for the benefit of the fund in accordance with § 9-4-603. Interest accruing on investments and deposits of the fund must be credited to and remain part of the fund.

(h) Any unencumbered moneys and any unexpended balance of the fund remaining at the end of a fiscal year do not revert to the general fund, but must be carried forward until expended in accordance with this section. No part of the fund shall be diverted to the general fund or any other public fund.

(i) All expenditures from the fund are subject to review in the form of an annual report submitted by the commissioner of economic and community development to the chair of the health and welfare committee of the senate and the chair of the health committee of the house of representatives.

(j) The department shall promulgate rules necessary to effectuate this section. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in chapter 5 of this title.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.