

HOUSE BILL 1709

By Cepicky

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to child care assistance for teachers
employed in a public school.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, is amended by adding
the following as a new part:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Dependent child" means a natural child, stepchild, or adopted child
of a teacher who is no less than six (6) weeks of age, but no more than six (6)
years of age, and who may be claimed by the teacher as a dependent for federal
income tax purposes; and

(2) "Teacher" means a teacher, principal, supervisor, or other individual
required by law to hold a valid license of qualification for their employment in an
LEA or public charter school and who has been employed full time by an LEA or
public charter school for at least twelve (12) consecutive months.

(b)

(1) Each LEA and public charter school may reimburse each teacher
employed full time by the LEA or public charter school sixty-six percent (66%) of
the child care expenses paid each month by the teacher for the teacher's
dependent child to receive child care services through a child care program, as
defined in § 49-1-1102, certified by the department of education, or a child care
agency, as defined in § 71-3-501, licensed by the department of human services.

(2) A teacher must not receive reimbursement pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) in an amount that exceeds one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per month, and must not receive reimbursement for child care expenses paid by the teacher for child care services received in a month for which classroom instruction is not provided to students in accordance with the respective school calendar. An LEA or public charter school may prorate reimbursement to a teacher for child care expenses paid in a month in which classroom instruction was not provided to students in the LEA or public charter school for the entire school month.

(c) Each local board of education and public charter school governing body shall adopt and implement the policies necessary to effectuate this section if the LEA or public charter school elects to reimburse teachers for child care expenses.

(d) Subject to appropriation, if an LEA or public charter school elects to reimburse teachers for child care expenses in accordance with this section, then this state shall reimburse each such LEA and public charter school thirty-three percent (33%) of the monthly reimbursement amounts paid by the LEA or public charter school.

(e) The reimbursement program established in this section is subject to audit by the comptroller of the treasury, or the comptroller's designee. Each LEA and public charter school that elects to reimburse teachers for child care expenses shall cooperate fully with the comptroller of the treasury, or the comptroller's designee, in the performance of the audit. The results of any audit conducted by the comptroller of the treasury, or the comptroller's designee, must be reported to the general assembly.

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