

HOUSE BILL 1927

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:

49-5-1201.

As used in this part:

(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 employment in the
public schools in this state who is employed full time by an LEA or public charter
school in this state, and who was employed full time by the same LEA or public
charter school at which the individual is employed for the one (1) full school year
immediately preceding the school year in which the individual seeks
reimbursement of child care expenses pursuant to this part.

49-5-1202.

(a)(1) Each LEA and public charter school may reimburse a teacher
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, that is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the LEA in which the teacher's school is located.

(2) A teacher must not receive reimbursement pursuant to subdivision (a)(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.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) 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.