



2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 763

January 20, 2016 - Introduced by Representatives BARCA, JOHNSON, C. TAYLOR, ZAMARRIPA, SHANKLAND, OHNSTAD, SUBECK, BILLINGS, MILROY, MASON, CONSIDINE, BERCEAU, ZEPNICK, GOYKE, SINICKI, WACHS and SARGENT, cosponsored by Senators HARRIS DODD and WIRCH. Referred to Committee on Children and Families.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 49.155 (6) (f) of the statutes; **relating to:** child care provider
2 rates and ratings under Wisconsin Shares, funding for Wisconsin Shares child
3 care subsidies, and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill provides a grace period before a child care provider's YoungStar rating is reduced due to a staff vacancy and increases funding for child care subsidies.

The Wisconsin Works (W-2) program under current law, which is administered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), provides work experience and benefits for low-income custodial parents who are at least 18 years old. Also, an individual who is the parent of a child under the age of 13 or, if the child is disabled, under the age of 19, who needs child care services to participate in various educational or work activities, and who satisfies other eligibility criteria may receive a child care subsidy for child care services under the W-2 program. This child care subsidy program is known as Wisconsin Shares. This bill increases funding for Wisconsin Shares.

Under current law, DCF establishes maximum payment rates, within specified parameters, for child care providers that provide child care services under Wisconsin Shares. DCF may increase or reduce an individual child care provider's maximum rate on the basis of the child care provider's quality rating under the quality rating plan known as YoungStar. This bill requires DCF to give a child care provider who loses a staff member a grace period of at least 45 days to fill the vacancy during which time the provider's quality rating under YoungStar may not be reduced.

