

House Bill 3107

Sponsored by Representative TOMEI

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Creates Oregon Cares Program in Child Care Division of Employment Department for purposes of providing wage stipends or scholarships to child care providers for training and education.
Appropriates moneys from General Fund to division for purposes of program.
Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2005.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to child care; appropriating money; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **"Applicant" means a director, in-home provider or provider who has applied for a**
6 **wage stipend or scholarship under this section.**

7 (b) **"Director" means an individual with supervisory or management responsibilities at a**
8 **qualified child care facility who:**

9 (A) **Earns less than \$15 per hour; and**

10 (B) **Works at least 20 hours per week with children or staff who work directly with**
11 **children at the qualified child care facility.**

12 (c) **"In-home provider" means an individual who cares for children in the individual's**
13 **home and who:**

14 (A) **Earns less than \$15 per hour; and**

15 (B) **Works at least 20 hours per week caring for children in the individual's home.**

16 (d) **"Provider" means an individual who cares for children at a qualified child care facility**
17 **or assists an in-home provider in caring for children in the in-home provider's home and**
18 **who:**

19 (A) **Earns less than \$12 per hour; and**

20 (B) **Works at least 20 hours per week at the qualified child care facility or in the in-home**
21 **provider's home.**

22 (e) **"Qualified child care facility" means a registered or certified child care facility as**
23 **defined in ORS 657A.250.**

24 (2) **There is created the Oregon Cares Program in the Child Care Division of the Em-**
25 **ployment Department. The purposes of the program are to:**

26 (a) **Strengthen Oregon's workforce through investment in and the professionalization of**
27 **the child care industry;**

28 (b) **Serve as a model for child care training and development; and**

29 (c) **Improve the quality, stability and safety of child care through compensation linked**
30 **with professional development of individuals working in the child care industry.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (3) The program may provide a wage stipend or scholarship to a director, in-home pro-
 2 vider or provider if the director, in-home provider or provider meets training and education
 3 standards and agrees to additional training or education. A scholarship is intended to enable
 4 a director, in-home provider or provider to pursue advanced training and education by re-
 5 ducing the barriers to and costs of advanced training and education.

6 (4) The division shall, in consultation with the statewide network of child care resource
 7 and referral agencies, adopt rules to:

8 (a) Establish criteria and an application and approval process for participation in the
 9 program.

10 (b) Determine the amount of the wage stipend an approved applicant may receive.

11 (c) Identify training and education courses for which an approved applicant may be re-
 12 imbursed.

13 (d) Distribute funds through local resource and referral agencies for disbursement to
 14 approved applicants.

15 (e) Ensure equity of participation.

16 (5) To be eligible to receive a scholarship for advanced training and education or a wage
 17 stipend under this section, an applicant must work in the child care industry in a locality
 18 participating in the program.

19 (6) An applicant approved to participate in the program, according to criteria adopted by
 20 the division under subsection (4) of this section, shall agree in writing:

21 (a) To continue working at a qualified child care facility or in an in-home provider's
 22 home, as appropriate, for the next 12 months; and

23 (b) To abide by the terms of the program as described in this section and as determined
 24 by the division by rule.

25 (7) For an approved applicant, the wage stipend shall be between \$500 and \$4,000 annually
 26 and shall correspond with the steps established in the Oregon Registry: Pathways to Pro-
 27 fessional Recognition in Childhood Care and Education.

28 (8) In accordance with the division's rules and to the extent funds are available, the
 29 statewide network of child care resource and referral agencies, through a local resource and
 30 referral agency, may award wage stipends and scholarships to approved applicants.

31 (9) The division shall work with the statewide network of child care resource and referral
 32 agencies to administer the program in at least seven counties and implement the program
 33 in additional counties when funds are available. The statewide network of child care resource
 34 and referral agencies may establish local or regional strategies based on the program's
 35 model.

36 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2005 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 657A.

37 **SECTION 3.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
 38 ated to the Employment Department for the Child Care Division, for the biennium beginning
 39 July 1, 2005, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$1,500,000, for the purpose of carrying
 40 out the provisions of section 1 of this 2005 Act.

41 **SECTION 4.** This 2005 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
 42 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2005 Act takes effect
 43 July 1, 2005.