

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2023
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB35

Hearing Date: Thursday March 02, 2023
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: DeBoer
One Liner: Change provisions relating to child care assistance

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 7 Senators Ballard, Cavanaugh, M., Day, Hansen, B., Hardin, Riepe, Walz
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Wendy DeBoer
Bryan Slone

Katie Bass
Erin Feichtinger
Kristine VanHoosen
Robert Patterson
Tina Rockenbach
Rasna Sethi
Mike Bird
Madeline Walker
Ken Smith

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Chamber, Greater Omaha Chamber, Lincoln Chamber
First Five Nebraska
Women's Fund of Omaha
YWCA of Grand Island
Kids Can Community Center
Community Action of Nebraska
OpenSky Policy Center
Children's Respite Care Center
Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence
Nebraska Appleseed

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 35 extends the sunset date for eligibility for transitional child care assistance under the federal Child Care Subsidy program and cash assistance to families who have not achieved economic self-sufficiency to October 1, 2026.

Sec. 1: The federal citations for the federal child care assistance program under 42 U.S.C. 9857 as such sections existed

in 2021 are updated to 2023. DHHS's requirement to provide child care assistance to families up to 185% of the federal poverty level prior to October 1, 2023 or 130% of the federal poverty level and after October 1, 2023 is extended to 2026.

In determining ongoing eligibility for the federal Child Care Subsidy program, if a family's income exceeds 185% of the federal poverty level prior to October 1, 2026, or 130% of the federal poverty level on and after October 1, 2026, the family shall receive transitional child care assistance through the remainder to the family's eligibility period or until the family's income exceeds 85% of the state median income for a family of the same size, whichever occurs first.

When the family's eligibility ends, the family shall continue to be eligible for transitional child care assistance if the family's income is below 200% of the federal poverty level prior to October 1, 2026, or 185% of the federal poverty level on and after October 1, 2026.

For the period beginning July 1, 2021, through September 30, 2026, funds provided to the State of Nebraska pursuant to the Child Care and Development Block Grant shall be used to pay the costs to the state resulting from the income eligibility changes. If the available amount of such funds is insufficient to pay such costs, then funds provided to the state for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program may also be used.

No General Funds shall be used to pay the costs to the state resulting from the income eligibility changes, for the period beginning July 1, 2021, through September 30, 2026.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and private non-profit organization independent evaluation of the income eligibility changes in this section of law shall be completed by July 1, 2024 instead of December 15, 2023.

Sec. 2: The amount of cash assistance to families who have not achieved economic self-sufficiency shall be based on a cost-shared plan between the recipient family and the state which shall provide assistance up to 200% of the federal poverty prior to October 1, 2026, or 185% of the federal poverty level on and after October 1, 2026.

Ben Hansen, Chairperson