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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

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**Bill No:** AB 273 **Hearing Date:** June 21, 2017  
**Author:** Aguiar-Curry  
**Version:** February 1, 2017  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** Yes  
**Consultant:** Lynn Lorber

**Subject:** Child care services: eligibility

**NOTE:** This bill has been referred to the Committees on Education and Human Services. A "do pass" motion should include referral to the Committee on Human Services.

## SUMMARY

This bill expands eligibility for federal and state subsidized child development services to families who need child care because the parents are engaged in an educational program for English learners or to attain a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate.

## BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the income eligibility limit for child care and development services at 70 percent of the State median income that was in use for the 2007-08 fiscal year, adjusted for family size. (Education Code § 8263.1)
- 2) Requires families, in order to be eligible for federal and state subsidized child development services, to meet at least one requirement in each of the following areas:
  - a) Be a family that is either:
    - i) A current aid recipient;
    - ii) Income eligible;
    - iii) Homeless; or
    - iv) One whose children are recipients of protective services, or identified as being, or at risk of being, abused, neglected, or exploited.
  - b) Be a family that needs the child care services because:
    - i) The child is identified by specified entities as either: a recipient of protective services; being, or at risk of being, neglected, abused, or exploited; or being homeless.

- ii) The parents are either: engaged in vocational training leading directly to a recognized trade, paraprofession or profession; employed or seeking employment; seeking permanent housing or family stability; or incapacitated. (EC § 8263)

## ANALYSIS

This bill expands eligibility for federal and state subsidized child development services to families who need child care because the parents are engaged in an educational program for English learners or to attain a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate.

## STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “Under existing law, parents that meet income criteria and are engaged in vocational training courses leading directly to a trade or profession are eligible for state supported child care services. However, courses in English as a Second Language and/or High School Equivalency Certificate do not qualify as a type of vocational training. Many families require state supported child care services in order to continue with their education and work towards a profession. Costly child care services may prove burdensome for lower income families, disproportionately impacting single mothers and women of color.”
- 2) ***Subsidized child care.*** Families may be eligible for state and federally subsidized child care through participation in CalWORKs, or based on income and need for child care services. Income eligibility for families that are not current recipients of CalWORKs is established at 70% of state median income as calculated in 2007-2008 (\$46,896 for a family of four) or if they are recipients of child protective services and if they can show need for child care services.

The state’s subsidized child care and development services are delivered to eligible families through two categories of providers, providers with a direct service contract with the California Department of Education (licensed Title 5 programs) and Title 22 (Alternative Payment Programs/vouchers) licensed and licensed-exempt general child care providers. Title 5 child care providers must meet education and training standards that exceed those of Title 22 child care providers (licensed and license-exempt), as well as provide an educational component. Existing law specifies that children are eligible for subsidized child care if the family meets at least one requirement in each of two areas: eligibility and need.

This bill expands the area of need to include when parents are engaged in an educational program for English learners or to attain a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate. The result is that additional families may be eligible for subsidized child care. Funding for subsidized child care is established through the annual Budget Act, and therefore this bill does not directly increase funding for subsidized child care (but could create greater competition for a set amount of funding).

- 3) **Fiscal impact.** According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, this bill would impose:
  - a) Onetime cost to the California Department of Education of approximately \$60,000 over two years to update regulations and the Child Development Management Information system.
  - b) Negligible fiscal impact to the Department of Social Services.
- 4) **Related legislation.** AB 227 (Mayes) establishes the CalWORKs Educational Opportunity and Attainment Program to offer education grants and/or stipends to eligible CalWORKs participants who complete certain educational programs, and appropriates \$20 million to the California Community Colleges. AB 227 is pending referral in the Senate.

## SUPPORT

Parent Voices California (co-sponsor)  
The Women's Foundation of California, Women's Policy Institute (co-sponsor)  
9to5, California  
9to5, National Association of Working Women  
Alameda County Board of Supervisors  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of University Women  
Asian Pacific Environmental Network  
California Alternative Payment Program Association  
California Association for the Education of Young Children  
California Catholic Conference  
California Child Care Coordinators Association  
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network  
California Federation of Teachers  
California Immigrant Policy Center  
California School Employees Association  
California State PTA  
California Women's Law Center  
Child Action, Inc.  
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles  
Child Care Law Center  
Child Care Resource Center  
Children Now  
Children's Defense Fund – California  
Choices for Children  
Coleman Advocates for Children and youth  
Community Action Marin Child Development Program  
Community Child Care Council of Alameda County  
Community Housing Partnership  
Congregation Beth Am  
Courage Campaign  
Crystal Stairs, Inc.  
Del Norte Child Care Council

Economic Development and Justice Giving Circle of The Women's Foundation of California  
El Dorado County Early Care and Education Planning Council  
Equal Rights Advocates  
Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center  
First 5 California  
First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission  
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
Marin Child Care Council  
Marin County Board of Supervisors  
Marin County Child Care Commission  
Marin County Superintendent of Schools  
Marin Head Start  
Napa County Office of Education  
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter  
Novato Youth Center  
Organización en California de Líderes Campesinas, Inc.  
San Francisco Child Care Planning & Advisory Council  
Sierra Nevada Children's Services  
Solano Family & Children's Services  
Visión y Compromiso

**OPPOSITION**

None received

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