SENATE BILL 559

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE; ALLOWING FOR INCENTIVES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN BENEFITS TO EMPLOYEES; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 32A-23A-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2011, Chapter 123, Section 6) is amended to read:

"32A-23A-6. EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION FUND-- CREATED--PURPOSE--ADMINISTRATION--GRANT APPLICATIONS.--

A. The "early childhood care and education fund" is created as a nonreverting fund in the state treasury. The fund shall be administered by the department and shall consist of gifts, grants, donations and bequests made to the fund.

B. Money in the fund is subject to appropriation by the legislature to the department for awarding grants to the

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council and early childhood care and education providers for

carrying out the provisions of the Early Childhood Care and

Education Act.

C. The department shall adopt rules on

qualifications for grants and specify the format, procedure and

deadlines for grant applications. For grants to early

childhood care and education providers, the council shall

review all grant applications and submit those applications

recommended for final approval to the secretary.

D. Disbursements from the fund shall be made upon

vouchers issued and signed by the secretary or the secretary's

designee upon warrants drawn by the secretary of finance and

administration.

E. The department shall adopt rules to increase

monthly reimbursement rates from the fund by fifty percent for

early childhood care and education providers that, by the first

day of school, meet four of the following conditions:

(1) offer at least five paid sick days to all

of their employees;

(2) offer at least three days of paid family

or medical leave to all of their employees;

(3) offer health insurance to all of their

employees that requires an employee to contribute not more than

five percent of the employee's household income for the

premiums;

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1   (4) participate in a substitute teacher

2   program or operate their own substitute teacher program; or

3   (5) pay their employees a minimum wage rate of

4   fifteen dollars ($15.00) per hour."

5   **SECTION 2.** EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public

6   peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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