Rep. Wallner, Merr. 19
April 22, 2024
2024-1571h
05/08

Amendment to SB 404-FN

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 New Subdivision; Department of Health and Human Services; Child Care Assistance Program for Child Care Workforce. Amend RSA 167 by inserting after section 97 the following new subdivision:

Child Care Assistance Program for Child Care Workforce

167:98 Child Care Assistance Program for Child Care Workforce.

I. The department of health and human services, division of economic stability, shall develop and implement a child care assistance program for the child care workforce. The department shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to implementation and administration of the program.

II. For purposes of the assistance program, child care centers that have participating, eligible staff shall, with the consent of the individual staff person, provide information to the department as requested regarding recruitment and retention impacts of the program.

III. The department shall use the information provided in accordance with paragraph II to make the determination as to whether the child care assistance program delivers the intended value as a recruitment and retention strategy for child care providers. This requirement shall not be construed as authorization to report personally identifiable information of the program participants.

IV. Households with at least one verified New Hampshire child care professional employed at a qualified child care center, may automatically be eligible for the child care assistance program, provided the following provisions are met:

(a) Each child in the household meets the same eligibility requirements of the current federal Child Care Scholarship program, specifically that each child shall be:

(1) A resident of New Hampshire;

(2) A U.S. citizen or qualified immigrant; and

(3) Thirteen years of age or under at the time of application or recertification; or through 17 years of age for children with disabilities who are enrolled before the age of 13.

(4) Any other federal eligibility criteria.

(b) Each eligible child resides with a verified New Hampshire child care professional. A verified New Hampshire child care professional means an individual who:

(1) Is a resident of New Hampshire;

(2) Is employed by a certified child care center and works a minimum of 25 hours per week; and

(3) Whose employment and eligibility are verified by the certified child care center at which the child care professional is employed.

(c) A certified child care center is a New Hampshire based, licensed child care center, licensed home child care center, or licensed-exempt center, that is registered and enrolled to accept child care scholarships with the state of New Hampshire.

(1) A family shall not be eligible if care is provided by a provider not licensed according to child-care center licensure rules; or registered and enrolled according to requirements for registered child care providers in the child care assistance program.

(2) A family shall not be eligible if care is provided in a home child care by: a parent or stepparent; a legal guardian; or a person living in the same residence as the child in need of care.

(d) A household that meets the requirements outlined in paragraph IV shall have eligibility determined for the federally-funded child care scholarship program under existing eligibility rules and be denied for being over income as a pre-requisite to consideration for the child care assistance program. If the household does not meet the eligibility income level requirements, it shall be deemed eligible for the assistance program and shall have all earned and unearned income excluded from the eligibility determination.

(e) Households eligible for the assistance program qualify for the child care scholarship benefit available according to the most current market rate survey for family size, child age, type of program and service level subject to the same cost share as families eligible for the child care scholarship program.

(f) Upon implementation, the department of health and human services shall develop and engage child care providers and/or staff on verification process for program eligibility and develop a public awareness campaign to support broad access.

V. On or before March 1, 2025, the department shall provide a detailed report of the assistance program to the house health and human services oversight committee and senate health and human services committee of the general court. The report shall include data on utilization, including the number of individuals seeking services of paragraph I, the number of individuals provided services as part of the program, the total cost of the services provided, and other relevant information necessary to assess the effectiveness and cost of the program.

2 Department of Health and Human Services; Waiver Request. The department of health and human services shall submit any waiver or request required by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care to use New Hampshire's Child Care and

Development Fund (CCDF) funds for the purpose of administering the child care assistance program established in section 1 of this act.

3 Appropriation. The sum of $250,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services for the purpose of information system enhancements to implement this assistance program. The sum of $2,300,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services for the administration, management, and benefit issuance of the child care assistance program for the child care workforce. Funds appropriated shall be nonlapsing and the department shall have the authority to transfer any remainder amounts in the child care workforce fund.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

2024-1571h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a child care assistance program for the child care workforce and makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for this purpose.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**April 24, 2024**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Committee on Special Committee on Childcare to which was referred SB 404-FN,**

**AN ACT (New Title) directing the department of health and human services to submit a report regarding the establishment of a child care workforce child care assistance pilot program. Having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment, and the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

**Rep. Debra DeSimone**

**FOR THE COMMITTEE**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

# COMMITTEE REPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| Committee: | **Special Committee on Childcare** |
| Bill Number: | **SB 404-FN** |
| Title: | **(New Title) directing the department of health and human services to submit a report regarding the establishment of a child care workforce child care assistance pilot program.** |
| Date: | **April 24, 2024** |
| Consent Calendar: | **CONSENT** |
| Recommendation: | **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 2024-1571h** |

## STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill as amended expands the childcare scholarship to all childcare workers. The bill first seeks to use federal funds to mitigate concerns over cost. It was noted that the vast majority of childcare workers already qualify for the program and this will be used as a recruitment tool for the industry that is experiencing an extreme worker shortage.

Vote 10-0.

Rep. Debra DeSimone
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Special Committee on Childcare

**SB 404-FN,** (New Title) directing the department of health and human services to submit a report regarding the establishment of a child care workforce child care assistance pilot program. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Debra DeSimone for Special Committee on Childcare. This bill as amended expands the childcare scholarship to all childcare workers. The bill first seeks to use federal funds to mitigate concerns over cost. It was noted that the vast majority of childcare workers already qualify for the program and this will be used as a recruitment tool for the industry that is experiencing an extreme worker shortage. **Vote 10-0.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CHILDCARE**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 404-FN**

**BILL TITLE:** (Second New Title) relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.

**DATE:** May 24, 2024

**LOB ROOM:** 206-208

**MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Moved by Rep. DeSimone | Seconded by not in paperwork | AM Vote: 10-0 |

Amendment # 2024-1571h

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Moved by Rep. DeSimone | Seconded by not in paperwork | Vote: 10-0 |

**CONSENT CALENDAR: YES**

**Statement of Intent:** Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Jacqueline Chretien, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

2024 SESSION

2/6/2024 3:54:43 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

**Special Committee on Childcare**

**Bill #:** SB404 **Motion:** adopt amend **AM #:** 1571 **Exec Session Date:** 4/24/24

| Members | YEAS | Nays | NV |
|---|---|---|---|
| Berry, Ross Chairman | ✓ | | |
| DeSimone, Debra L. Vice Chairman | ✓ | | |
| Phillips, Emily Cahill | ✓ | | |
| Ball, Lorie | ✓ | | |
| Nelson, Jodi L | ✓ | | |
| Wallner, Mary Jane | ✓ | | |
| Chretien, Jacqueline H. | ✓ | | |
| McWilliams, Rebecca J. Long | ✓ | | |
| O'Neil, Candice M Lane | ✓ | | |
| Paige, David Thomas | ✓ | | |
| **TOTAL VOTE:** | 10 | 0 | 0 |

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

2024 SESSION

2/6/2024 3:54:43 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

**Special Committee on Childcare**

**Bill #:** SB404 **Motion:** OTP-A **AM #:** _____ **Exec Session Date:** 4/24/24

| Members | YEAS | Nays | NV |
|---|---|---|---|
| Berry, Ross Chairman | ✓ | | |
| DeSimone, Debra L. Vice Chairman | ✓ | | |
| Phillips, Emily Cahill | ✓ | | |
| Ball, Lorie | ✓ | | |
| Nelson, Jodi L | ✓ | | |
| Wallner, Mary Jane | ✓ | | |
| Chretien, Jacqueline H. | ✓ | | |
| McWilliams, Rebecca J. Long | ✓ | | |
| O'Neil, Candice M Lane | ✓ | | |
| Paige, David Thomas | ✓ | | |
| **TOTAL VOTE:** | 10 | 0 | 0 |

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CHILDCARE**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 404-FN**

**BILL TITLE:** **(Second New Title) relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.**

**DATE:** **April 17, 2024**

**LOB ROOM:** **104** **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** **10:00 a.m.**

**Time Adjourned:** **<<End Time>>**

**Attendance:** Rep. Jacqueline Chretien (clerk), Rep. Ross Berry (chair), Rep. David Paige, Rep. Mary Jane Wallner, Rep. Kris Schultz (substitute), Rep. Dolan (substitute), Rep. Brown (substitute), a few other subs

**Bill Sponsors:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sen. Whitley** | **Sen. Rosenwald** | **Sen. Perkins Kwoka** |
| **Sen. Soucy** | **Sen. Altschiller** | **Sen. Watters** |
| **Sen. Fenton** | **Sen. Chandley** | **Sen. Prentiss** |
| **Sen. D'Allesandro** | **Sen. Bradley** | **Rep. McMahon** |
| **Rep. D. Paige** | **Rep. Simpson** | **Rep. Wallner** |

**TESTIMONY**

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

**10:00 a.m. Public hearing on SB404.**

**Sen. Whitley:** Legislation as introduced aims to address childcare shortage in NH. Care is necessary to address state's ongoing workforce shortage. Statewide, only 28 available workers for every 100 open job positions. National survey of children's health, notable number of parents of children 0-5 reported job changes (change, quit, not take) due to inability to find childcare. Impeding businesses' ability to recruit and fill vacancies, limiting opportunities for business growth and stifling their economic potential. BIA is a major supporter for this reason. We are on the edge of a federal funding cliff, childcare workforce is shrinking. Childcare centers are losing younger workers due to lack of compensation and benefits. Centers that have been most effective in retention have offered childcare of their own. This bill will allow childcare workers to automatically qualify for the child care scholarship program. Most already qualify due to low wages (average $13/hr), but this will capture the few that are falling through the cracks. Wil streamline process, eliminate administrative burden, for workers and for centers. Other states have implemented this policy successfully. Hope you will consider this policy as originally introduced in the Senate. Was amended in HHS and passed unanimously, however gutted on floor, which is what you have before you, however I ask that you consider the original bill.

Wallner: What is the difference between the original bill and the amended version?

Full program vs. just a pilot.

Berry: Senate basically passed a nothing-burger, what happened here?

There was broad support for the policy and a lot of work done in HHS. I am not on Finance but I think that this was introduced as a placeholder because there was uncertainty about revenues.

Paige: My understanding is that there were a lot of assumptions that went into the fiscal note on the original bill, can you go through those?

I don't think the assumptions were faulty, but I think that it is important to think through who we are talking about, how many will benefit. Again, we're talking about automatic qualification, but want to be clear that a lot of childcare workers already qualify, also not every worker in the state has children. We are trying to retain

those younger folks who do have children. Others who will testify can speak more to this, but I do think this is a relatively small number of families.

Wallner: So, pilot program – were there new assumptions used for that fiscal note, and if so what are they?

I believe so but I will defer to the department.

Berry: Yes it's interesting math.

**Cora Hoppe, exec director of Rochester Childcare.** Currently licensed for 170, more school age. I have three perspectives on this, one as a parent, one as a nonprofit business executive, one as a childcare provider. When I was a younger parent, I went into this field for the childcare benefits, even with 50% off and a husband who is a master electrician, it was still a struggle, sometimes had to decide between groceries and the electric bill. Money for childcare came directly out of my paycheck. I've been fortunate to come out of it but now watching my workforce go through the same thing. Children going through constant changes in care, sometimes receiving subpar care, going back and forth between different family members. Children are also really affected when our teachers and parents struggle due to all this stress. I'm unable to compete with McDonalds or Target, have to think of other ways to subsidize care. My employees also struggling with housing costs. Insurance is a nightmare right now. Having some of these costs subsidized would help me address other costs, potentially increase wages. If the state can do this, I can better predict my trends and needs and offer better quality care.

**Airole Warden and Crissy Traynor, Coos County Childcare Director Network and Little Sprouts:** North Country needs action, what has come out of Senate Finance does not have action, need to bring back the original bill to support directors as soon as possible. Wish we could go back and do this 5 years ago, we know we need this support. I lead recruiting for several centers in NH and in other states. Approx. 94% of workers are women, and 50% of those identify as mom. Not all of those children are currently 0-5, but clearly impacts a lot of workers. This would be helpful for retention and also attractive for people considering going into the field who are currently unsure if it is a financially viable career.

**Michelle Merritt, New Futures:** We are nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization, the NH designee of the Kids Count advocacy group. Policy priorities in early childhood. We have a childcare vacancy rate of 26%, many operating below capacity because centers cannot find enough teachers, retention of younger workers is particularly difficult, often leaving for K-12 where the benefits are much better. More than half of workers leave the field by age 25, almost always for reasons of pay/benefits. Childcare can cost $28k/year for a parent of young children, average salary for childcare worker is $32k. Subsidized slots has been a very effective tool for retention of these workers. Pilot program in KY was successful and made permanent. As introduced, SB404 was very similar to this program. As currently before you, this bill basically does nothing. Urge committee to consider amendments that would restore the underlying concept. Innovative and cost-effective solution to some of the childcare workforce challenges that we're facing.

**Megan Brabec, Save the Children Action Network:** Live in Newmarket, here representing SCAN supporters across the state. Aim to ensure that children in NH have access to early childcare. As you've heard, field is in crisis, many workforce vacancies, childcare is unaffordable for providers and others, issue has many ripple effects. High quality early childhood education prepares children for effective learning in the future. SB404 as introduced was an innovative approach to these issues, but again, as you've heard, current form will not have any immediate impacts on childcare workers or the follow-on effects on the broader workforce. Also urge you to restore the original version of the bill.

**Brian Clark, DHHS, general counsel for division of economic stability. Karen, director of division.** We are neutral on the bill, no appropriation for supporting the preparation of the report.

Chretien: bill doesn't actually establish a pilot, just a report about what would be needed?

Yes.

Wallner: Would like to ask about the fiscal assumptions made for the amended version—

Berry: can we go all the way back to the original version? How did we get to $26 million, this seems laughable. Read over methodology about five times, it makes no sense to me.

Introduced version as written would have childcare workers as categorically eligible for full benefit, so included all workers, would have shifted the source of funding from the childcare scholarship to the general fund. HHS-amended version specified that only workers who are not currently covered by the childcare scholarship would be covered.

One of the assumptions as that childcare workers were equal age range and equally likely to have children. Assumption that only two-adult households would need this pilot, as single parents would likely already be covered (below 85%).

Wallner: So when making those assumptions and estimates for the needed funding in the HHS amendment, you included consideration that workers who would be covered under the current system. Did you also factor in that the newly covered individuals would pay 7% of income to tuition?

Yes, we included that, also cut out a small number to represent households with potentially high incomes who would not have the incentive to apply for the benefit.

Wallner: Is that fiscal note available?

Yes, we can send that to you.

Berry: Ok, so clearly this is going to need work and we won't exec it today, subs feel free to leave, thanks for being here. I will schedule the vote for this for 10am next Wednesday.

Just wanted to point out that if reinstatement of previous amendment is considered, a pilot would require system changes that we can't instate until January 1, 2025, so we can collect robust data to see what the value would be.

Chretien: Would implementation of a non-pilot program avoid this or have the same issue?

No, would still need to be January 1st.

Blue sheet, all neutral, most online also neutral (55)

Would definitely like to see us do a pilot with the original HHS amendment from the senate. One more question, how much was in the amendment that the HHS?

Brian Clark: Appropriation of $2.55 M, breakdown was $122/week/child, estimated 350-450 children. $250k for system changes, otherwise used existing processes.

Chretien: Question for our New Futures representatives; can you tell me more about the program in KY?

KY did use a lot of state funds to allow true categorical eligibility. The bill as introduced was more modeled on KY, but to contain costs, the amendment used a cascading eligibility approach, leaning into the existing structure, so it would be less expensive here. No reason in my opinion why we couldn't use the structure in the pilot for the permanent version. Maximizes use of current state scholarship funds.

Wallner: I have another question for the department. Since even the pilot can't start until January of 2025, all we need in this biennium is 6 months of funding, yes?

Yes, 6 months, and the money for the system changes.

W: So appropriation would not need to be $2.5m, more like $1.2m?

More like $1.3 or $1.4

W: Ok. But would be less than originally proposed.

Appropriation was for the high end of the estimated range. Pilot was originally proposed for 2.5 years.

Berry: Who qualifies for the pilot program? Is it a selective pilot or is it the same as the full program would be?

Same as the full program, it is a pilot in the sense that it's a temporary program and will expire at the end of 2.5 years, not that it's restricted to a certain number of participants or region.

If family started making enough money that cost share approached/exceeded total cost, were excluded. Seems like that was somewhere between $200-250k family income.

**Merritt:** Dual-income household is really the population that we're trying to capture, when workers are making the choice of whether to stay in the childcare workforce or stay home. If that family unit makes more than, say, $90k, she's probably staying home.

**Berry/all:** Let's get an amendment to bring back the original HHS amendment, we can vote on it next week. Can we reduce appropriation since it's only for half a year? Think this would need to go through House Finance, in budget for next year. However we do want to make sure there's enough funding for DHHS to evaluate the effectiveness of the program, prepare a report, etc. Let's just leave it as is for now.

Rep. Wallner will take the lead on getting the amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Jacqueline Chretien, Clerk

newfutures
HOME OF NH Kids Count

100 N Main Street
Suite 400
Concord, NH 03301

April 17, 2024

The Honorable Ross Berry, Chair
House Special Committee on Childcare
Legislative Office Building, Room 104
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: New Futures' Support for SB 404 expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.**

Dear Chair Berry and Honorable Members of the Committee:

New Futures appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB 404. New Futures is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to improve the health and wellbeing of all New Hampshire residents through public policy change. As New Hampshire's authorized Kids Count organization, New Futures also advocates for data-based policies that support Granite State families.

New Futures stands in strong support of SB 404, as it was amended by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, as we believe it will make a significant difference in child care workforce recruitment and retention.

Presently, the average vacancy rate in child care centers across this state is 26%. The impact of this lack of staffing has been felt acutely by every industry, as access to child care is a central determinate in whether parents are able to work. Currently, 54,000 children under the age of 6 need care in NH, however, the state only has 33,000 slots available; leaving 21,000 children without the care they, and their families, need. A key strategy to address the issue of child care availability is to support centers in their workforce recruitment and retention efforts. The vacancy rate in child care centers across NH is 26%. While many centers have a licensed capacity to serve more children, they are forced to suppress enrollment due to staffing shortages.

A common experience cited by child care centers is losing younger workers to the public school system, where the compensation and benefits are more competitive. Data available on NH's child care workforce supports this experience. Child care workers between the ages of 20-24 represent the largest share of the workforce (23%); however, more than half of these workers leave the field by the age of 25.[1] Successful retention of this population of workers, beyond age 25, would have a significant impact on the availability of child care across NH: reducing the vacancy rate in child care to 14%[2].

Centers who have been the most effective in retaining their worker past age 25 have offered subsidized child care slots for their employees, offsetting a significant family expense for workers with children. The success of this strategy has been observed by other states, most notably Kentucky, which chose to pilot (and subsequently permanently fund) a child care benefit for child care workers through its state scholarship

[1] Bipartisan Policy Center, Characteristics of Childcare Workforce 2021 dataset. Workers from 20-24 represent 23% of the childcare workforce, this number drops to 11% for the next age bracket (25-29). Indicating a significant retention issue in this particular age bracket.
[2] NHFPI Childcare Report

program.

There are 600-700[3] child care workers in NH have children of their own under the age of 6; The total number of children (under the age of 6) with a parent working in childcare is estimated to be 800.[4] We believe the vast majority of these workers, and their children, qualify for the NH Child Care Scholarship Program under the new eligibility limit of 85% of SMI.[5] For reference, the average child care worker in NH earns $27,010, Preschool teachers earn $34,970 and Center Directors earn $52,220.[6] All of whom, if single, qualify under traditional eligibility criteria for the NH Child Care Scholarship Program. Even child care workers and preschool teachers earning in the 90th percentile of wages, if single, would qualify for NH's Scholarship Program.[7] Those workers in three member households, with combined wages less than $89,180, would also qualify under traditional eligibility.

Modeled off Kentucky's program, the original intent of SB 404 was to streamline the child care scholarship eligibility process for childcare workers and expand benefits to ensure *all childcare workers* benefit by leveraging the state's existing child care scholarship program. The average childcare worker earning $27,010, with an infant and four-year old would spend more than their entire salary or more on childcare. For those in this situation, it makes more financial sense to leave the workforce, than it does to stay in it. The original concept within SB 404 would address this problem, providing all early childhood educators with access to scholarship support.

Unfortunately, the Senate Finance Committee scaled SB 404 back so significantly that the bill now contains no promise of this concept ever coming to fruition. We urge this committee to consider an amendment to this bill, to bring it back to its original intent and the amendment crafted with support from the Department of Health and Human Services. With amendment, we believe this program will be an innovative and cost-effective solution to NH's child care staffing challenges.

For these reasons, New Futures urges the committee to amend and support SB 404.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Merritt, Esq.
President, New Futures

[3] NH Estimates, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California, Berkeley Authors' analysis of 2021 5-Year American Community Survey data, retrieved via IPUMS USA. 600 workers in classroom, additional 100 parents in support and management positions.
[4] Id.
[5] A single parent qualifies for scholarship if their income is less than $72,193; A couple with a child qualifies if their household income is less than $89,180.
[6] Annual Median Wage, NH Child Care Workforce, US Bureau of Labor Statistics May 2022
[7] Id. 90th percentile wages for childcare workers in NH is $35,980, and for preschool teachers is $42,410.

Save the Children
Action Network

Representative Ross Berry
House Special Committee on Child Care
New Hampshire State House
107 North Main St.
Concord, NH 03301

Chairman Berry, Vice Chairman DeSimone, and members of the House Special Committee on Child Care, thank you for considering my neutral testimony on SB 404, child care for child care teachers. My name is Megan Brabec, I live in Newmarket, and I am here today representing the thousands of Save the Children Action Network supporters across the state. SCAN is the advocacy arm of Save the Children and we're building bipartisan support to make sure every child has a strong start in life – and that includes working to ensure kids have access to quality early childhood education right here in New Hampshire and across the country.

New Hampshire is experiencing a childcare crisis. There are not enough day care spots for all the children in our state, and even if a family can get off a wait list, the cost for childcare is astronomical, approximately $28,000 on average for a family with two young children. The childcare workforce is also struggling, with low wages causing a staffing shortage, which of course means fewer spots for kids, which means families must withdraw from the workforce in other industries to care for their children. This is an issue that has ripple effects across the entire economy.

High-quality early education prepares children for a lifetime of learning. But so many kids — especially ones from lower-income families — never get that opportunity. The child care industry needs significant, long-term investments to give every child access to high-quality, affordable early learning and ensure the workforce is well-trained and fairly compensated.

SB 404, as originally introduced, was an innovative approach to this issue. This bill would have automatically qualified all childcare workers for the NH Child Care Scholarship. This would allow these folks to continue to work in childcare centers without the burden of their entire salary being spent on childcare for their own children. It obviously directly benefits these workers and their families, but the additional spots in childcare centers that will be able to open with these people staying in the workforce – on average seven children for every one child care worker - will be felt by working parents across the state.

In its current form, this bill is nothing more than a study. The Senate stripped this bill of its funding, leaving the State with no way to implement this forward-thinking solution. I urge you to amend this bill to restore it to its original intent.

Thank you,

Megan Brabec
New Hampshire State Manager
Save the Children Action Network

WAYPOINT
Help Along the Way

*Formerly*
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

April 17, 2024

Dear Chairman Berry, Vice Chairman DiSimone and Esteemed Members of the Special Committee on Childcare,

I am writing today to urge you to **support Senate Bill 404, directing the department of health and human services to submit a report regarding the establishment of a child care workforce child care assistance pilot program, *as originally amended by Senate Health and Human Services Committee***. Senate Bill 404 is a proactive approach to addressing New Hampshire's child care staffing crisis.

Waypoint is a private, nonprofit agency that provides services to children and families throughout the state, including a small child care and family resource center here in Concord, the Children's Place. The Children's Place has a comprehensive program of education for children up through age 6 and provides support to their families. One of the biggest challenges the Children's Place faces is obtaining and retaining quality staff.

As you may know, the 2023 median annual salary for child care workers was $32,940. Raising salaries for child care workers directly impacts the tuition costs for the families. Child care tuition costs approximately $28,000 for a family with an infant and a four-year-old, meaning that a child care worker with two children spends nearly their entire salary or more on child care costs. For most in this situation, leaving the early childhood workforce makes more financial sense.

However, New Hampshire has an opportunity to address this growing crisis by providing child care workers with access to the New Hampshire Child Care Scholarship, regardless of household income. For every one child care worker we can retain, an average of seven New Hampshire children benefit from stable care.

Unfortunately, the Senate passed a version of this bill that provides no guarantee that Senate Bill 404, as originally amended, will ever be implemented. I encourage you to work to get this bill back to the original intent to better support the child care system so that all New Hampshire families can thrive.

Thank you very much for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Best regards,

Emily Lawrence

Emily Lawrence
Deputy Advocacy Director
(603) 716-3392

COA Council on Accreditation Accredited

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**fax** (603) 224.7445
103 No. State St.
Concord, NH 03301
**waypointnh.org**

Erin McCabe

As a mom of 1 with another on the way, I am asking the Committee to restore the bill to its original intent of supporting the child care workforce through the New Hampshire Scholarship Program. Options are already limited in the state and this bill would help keep needed workers without passing the cost onto parents who are already paying high childcare rates. Please restore this bill so that it supports workers and families.

Thank you,

Erin McCabe

Susan McKeown

Please get this important bill back on track for the children and families in our state.

Jillian Dubois

Honorable Chair Berry and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your service to this state and for taking the time to read this.

The early childhood education and care workforce includes so many hard-working and dedicated professionals. But due to how little they are compensated, many must leave the field or change employers to find higher pay to support their own families. This, in turn, creates an unstable environment for the youngest Granite Staters, who deserve consistent, caring adults in their lives.

My son's preschool permanently closed last year, and then at his new school, one of his teachers did not return after maternity leave. It's hard enough to leave your child to go to work, but it's even harder knowing they are in an unfamiliar environment with new classmates and new caregivers.

Our kids deserve better, and in order to make that possible, we need to invest in the child care workforce. Please amend this bill to serve its original purpose and support the hard-working professionals who care for New Hampshire's children.

Susan Boardman

Please restore the=is bill to its original intent of supporting the childcare workforce through the New Hampshire Scholarship Program.

Lois Cote

PLEASE NOTE: I'm NEUTRAL on SB404 as currently amended, because it removes the guarantee of childcare for the children of childcare workers who need this cost covered in order to work.

As we all well know, if we are honest with ourselves, childcare workers are never paid at the level of their true worth to society, the children in their care, and the parents of those children. We are feeling acutely the dire shortage of childcare availability in our state, at all levels and aspects of life - even if we don't realize it. Please RESTORE SB404 as originally written, so that I can SUPPORT it fully.

Thank you.

Katherine Larochelle

Please support the childcare community by reinstoring the bill to its original intent. Support child care workers with the NH scholarship program. This would help our center to recruit and retain staff.

Maria Doyle

Please restore this bill's original intent so that the Childcare workforce is automatically eligible for childcare scholarship.  The childcare workforce needs childcare!

Beth Connolly

There are many childcare workers who choose to leave the field of early childhood education after strting their families.  This is mostly due to the fact that based on the low wages in the field, once a family pays for the cost of childcare it does not make sense for mom to work as she might as well stay home.  If childcare teachers had access to scholarship funds regardless of household income, this would help keep teachers in the field of early education in New Hampshire.

Sunnie McPhetres

I am the director of an early education facility in New Hampshire. Restoring this bill to its original content will enable me to recruit staff for my program that cannot take a position with us at this current time because they cannot afford childcare and we cannot provide free or reduced care for them at this time. We would be able to increase our enrollment substantially without needing to increase fees for families, if this bill were to be passes in its original form.

Olivia Wright

Being a teacher while also paying for my child to go to childcare seems a little contradictory to me. I have often thought about leaving the field to care for my child as a hefty portion of my income goes to paying for childcare for my child.  I love being an early childhood educator and it is truly my passion in life.

Karen Small

I am an administrative assistant at a childcare center and part of my job is helping to hire employees. One of the concerns for potential new hires is the inability to afford childcare for their own children because their income is not low enough to qualify them to receive any available help and not high enough to afford care. Please restore this bill to its original intent of supporting the childcare workforce through the New Hampshire Scholarship Program. I believe it can only help the childcare crisis in this country. Thank you.

Kristin Maffei

I am a parent in a border town who uses a daycare in New Hampshire, and I see everyday how hard our childcare workers work. Please ensure that this bill includes a guarantee that the program will be implemented by restoring the bill to its original intent of supporting the child care workforce through the New Hampshire Scholarship Program.

Erika Moen

I am requesting that the committee restore the bill to its original intent of supporting the child care workforce through the New Hampshire Scholarship Program.

As a working mother of young children, my ability to do my job continues to be impacted by the childcare educator workforce shortage. The child care center cannot offer pre-pandemic hours due to short staffing, the Director and Assistant Director of the center are often needed in classrooms to fill vacant spots, and my children have greater instability/turnover in their classroom teachers. Continuing to ignore this problem will have substantial, detrimental, effects on the state economy, the livelihood of NH families, and on our young children.

Therefore, as stated above, I strongly urge you to restore the bill to it's original intent, meaning that early childhood educators who work more than 25 hours per week would automatically qualify for the maximum child care scholarship benefit according to the most current market rate survey for family size, child age, type of program, and service level.

brian daniels

We need to support our child care workers. They are vital and we need to get our priorities straight.
Bria Daniels

Alisha Cooper

I work in the child care field and I agree that this bill is needed for families to function! I see coworkers deciding if it is worth it to actually work or stay home and receive state help because child care cost is so high that paying for childcare isn't worth the paycheck. I have also heard that staff have had to turn down raises because they would lose state benefits and the raise would not cover the lose.

Alicia Deaver

Dear Members of the Committee,

Please help get this bill back on track. It is critical to making progress to child care staff recruitment and retention. Our agency used to have a similar benefit, but it is no longer feasible due to financial constraints. As a program that nearly had to close down last year, because of lack of revenue due to lower enrollment, because of the staffing crisis, this bill is crucial to helping make NH's workforce and economic growth possible.
Alicia Deaver

Lisa Ranfos

SB 404 addresses the staffing shortage by providing early childhood educators with access to the New Hampshire Child Care Scholarship, regardless of household income. This would mean that early childhood educators who work more than 25 hours per week would automatically qualify for the maximum child care scholarship benefit according to the most current market rate survey for family size, child age, type of program, and service level.

I urge you to restore the bill to its original intent.

Stacy Neville

Hello,

I am neutral on this bill because I would love to see it get restored to the original intention of the bill before it was amended in the senate. This is so important for the field of childcare and to help retain workers! please consider this.

Shelli Roberts

Please restore the bill to its original intent of supporting the childcare workforce through the New Hampshire Scholarship Program.

Jennice Chewlin

Please restore the bill to its original intent of supporting the child care workforce through the New Hampshire Scholarship Program.

Cathleen Yackley

SB 404 represents vital legislation to support our childcare workforce needs. I'm writing to strongly urge the bill be reconsidered in its original form.

Deirdre McPartlin

With appreciation to the House Special Committee on Childcare, I ask you to restore SB 404 to its original intent of supporting the childcare workforce through the NH Scholarship Program.

Stephen Yevich

Please restore the bill to its original intent of supporting he child care workforce through the New Hampshire Scholarship Program.

Deborah Galipeault

I strongly support SB 404: relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program as it was originally introduced.
New Hampshire's childcare system remains under incredible strain. Programs, including the Y, have extensive waitlists of families trying to access care for their children. The wait for an infant or toddler slot in particular can easily exceed a year. This leaves parents to make incredibly hard decisions around placing their children in unlicensed care, cutting back their work hours, or leaving the workforce altogether. Despite our best efforts, the system is failing many New Hampshire families.

Early childhood educators are low paid, with the average New Hampshire educator earning just $28,000 per year. At the same time, the cost of childcare is incredibly high – on average more than $15,000 annually for one infant. Many New Hampshire families struggle to afford care, including the very educators providing this care. The original bill is a critical investment in our most important asset – the skilled early childhood educators that teach our state's children and allow us to offer consistent care for working families. Recruiting and retaining qualified staff has been an incredible challenge for us, and directly impacts the number of children we can serve. This policy change would serve as a valuable tool in attracting and keeping early childhood educators in the field, and ease a significant financial burden for them. This policy is good for children, good for working parents, and good for childcare providers.

I urge you to amend this bill back to its original form.

Sarah Zahnouni

I urge you to restore the bill to its original intent of supporting the child care workforce through the New Hampshire Scholarship Program.

Kristi Hart

I would like to see this bill funded with an implementation plan. Childcare workers need to know they can afford childcare for their own children before being able to commit to or stay focused on teaching other people's children

Brenda Judkins

Please restore the bill to its original intent of supporting the child care workforce through the New Hampshire Scholarship Program.

Tammy Gluck

I strongly support SB 404: relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program as it was originally introduced. I urge you to amend this bill back to its original form.

This Committee well knows that New Hampshire's childcare system remains under incredible strain. Programs have extensive waitlists of families trying to access care for their children. The wait for an infant or toddler slot in particular can easily exceed a year. This leaves parents to make incredibly hard decisions around placing their children in unlicensed care, cutting back their work hours, or leaving the workforce altogether. Despite our best efforts, the system is failing many New Hampshire families.

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Again I urge you to amend this bill back to its original form.

Brenda shanley

Please restore the bill to its original intent of supporting the child care workforce through the New Hampshire Scholarship Program. Recently, I have been substitute teaching in kindergarten and I am AMAZED by how challenging it is to work with this age group. Therefore, I can only imagine the expertise, energy and patience required to provide quality care for even younger children. For goodness sake, let's support the folks who care for our little ones!

Donna Ireland

I agree strongly that child care for working parents is a huge problem.
I am a grandmother, who is a nurse, but I am not practicing in healthcare due to helping my single parent daughter with childcare. The problem is lack of options as well as cost. Helping support trained and good childcare workforce being able to afford childcare for their own children makes a lot of sense. Please help this to happen.

Caitlin Eldridge

Please get this bill back on track! We have some incredible childcare teachers at our daughter's school that are taking time away with their babies and they shouldn't have to make a choice between their job and their baby. Please get this bill back on track!!

Jillian Clemans

The New Hampshire YMCAs strongly support SB 404: relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program as it was originally introduced.

This Committee well knows that New Hampshire's childcare system remains under incredible strain. Programs, including the Y, have extensive waitlists of families trying to access care for their children. The wait for an infant or toddler slot in particular can easily exceed a year. This leaves parents to make incredibly hard decisions around placing their children in unlicensed care, cutting back their work hours, or leaving the workforce altogether. Despite our best efforts, the system is failing many New Hampshire families.

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We urge you to amend this bill back to its original form.

David Lovely-Taillon

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This Committee well knows that New Hampshire's childcare system remains under incredible strain. Programs, including the Y, have extensive waitlists of families trying to access care for their children. The wait for an infant or toddler slot in particular can easily exceed a year. This leaves parents to make incredibly hard decisions around placing their children in unlicensed care, cutting back their work hours, or leaving the workforce altogether. Despite our best efforts, the system is failing many New Hampshire families.

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We urge you to amend this bill back to its original form.

Richard Nolan

Please put this bill back to its original wording. Giving Child Care Teachers access to the scholarship program is needed, as it reduces the cost for the teachers.

Melissa Hilfer

The New Hampshire YMCAs strongly support SB 404: relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program as it was originally introduced.

This Committee well knows that New Hampshire's childcare system remains under incredible strain. Programs, including the Y, have extensive waitlists of families trying to access care for their children. The wait for an infant or toddler slot in particular can easily exceed a year. This leaves parents to make incredibly hard decisions around placing their children in unlicensed care, cutting back their work hours, or leaving the workforce altogether. Despite our best efforts, the system is failing many New Hampshire families.

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We urge you to amend this bill back to its original form.

Cynthia Rodenhauser Stewart

Please get this bill back on track!

Thank you~

Stephanie Grotheer

I urge you to amend this bill back to its original form. the original bill is a critical investment in our most important asset - the skilled early childhood educators that teachour state's children and allow us to offer consistent care for working families.

Lisa Cormier

I support returning this bill to its original intent.

I am the Executive Director at St Peter's in Manchester, NH, one of the largest single-site childcare facilities in the state and we have been offering free childcare to our staff for 3 years now, I know it works. We have maintained our numbers, and are still able to offer all 354 spots because of this benefit. However, our paid waitlist is at 15 months, there are so many families in the state that are suffering due to the fact that other centers are not able to budget this for their staff. I have tested and run this, it has a high price tag but it works and absolutely recruits people into the field. I was able to recruit 17 staff members in just a year due to this benefit alone. If you are really dedicated to solving the childcare crisis, this is a huge step! In my budget alone too it would add 300K back that I could then use on other recruiting and retention efforts, Since this system is already in place, I think it is the fastest way to help now!

Reid VanKeulen

The New Hampshire YMCAs strongly support SB 404: relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program as it was originally introduced.
This Committee well knows that New Hampshire's childcare system remains under incredible strain. Programs, including the Y, have extensive waitlists of families trying to access care for their children. The wait for an infant or toddler slot in particular can easily exceed a year. This leaves parents to make incredibly hard decisions around placing their children in unlicensed care, cutting back their work hours, or leaving the workforce altogether. Despite our best efforts, the system is failing many New Hampshire families.
Early childhood educators are low paid, with the average New Hampshire educator earning just $28,000 per year. At the same time, the cost of childcare is incredibly high – on average more than $15,000 annually for one infant. Many New Hampshire families struggle to afford care, including the very educators providing this care. The original bill is a critical investment in our most important asset – the skilled early childhood educators that teach our state's children and allow us to offer consistent care for working families. Recruiting and retaining qualified staff has been an incredible challenge for us, and directly impacts the number of children we can serve. This policy change would serve as a valuable tool in attracting and keeping early childhood educators in the field, and ease a significant financial burden for them. This policy is good for children, good for working parents, and good for childcare providers.

We urge you to amend this bill back to its original form.

Stefanie Wieder

Please restore the bill to its original intent of supporting the child care workforce through the New Hampshire Scholarship Program.

Alisa Satlikova

Hello Dear House Representatives,

I urge you to amend this bill back to its original intent.

This bill is very important to NH families. We need childcare workers to be able to stay at their jobs as opposed to leave their jobs because they cannot afford it. If the bill is restored to its original intent, we will have open and functioning daycare centers throughout the state for the families to able to go work to provide for themselves and their children.

If we cut this bill, childcare industry will be always very weak in NH and the basic needs of the public will never be met.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alisa Satlikova

Kristina Wagnitz

The New Hampshire YMCAs strongly support SB 404: relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program as it was originally introduced.
This Committee well knows that New Hampshire's childcare system remains under incredible strain. Programs, including the Y, have extensive waitlists of families trying to access care for their children. The wait for an infant or toddler slot in particular can easily exceed a year. This leaves parents to make incredibly hard decisions around placing their children in unlicensed care, cutting back their work hours, or leaving the workforce altogether. Despite our best efforts, the system is failing many New Hampshire families.

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We urge you to amend this bill back to its original form.

Dan Smith

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We urge you to amend this bill back to its original form.

Linda Hallock

Please get this bill back on track.

Kimberly Masucci

I am the CEO of the Southern District YMCA. The New Hampshire YMCAs strongly support SB 404: relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program as it was originally introduced.

This Committee well knows that New Hampshire's childcare system remains under incredible strain. Programs, including the Y, have extensive waitlists of families trying to access care for their children. The wait for an infant or toddler slot in particular can easily exceed a year. This leaves parents to make incredibly hard decisions around placing their children in unlicensed care, cutting back their work hours, or leaving the workforce altogether. Despite our best efforts, the system is failing many New Hampshire families.

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We urge you to amend this bill back to its original form.

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# House Remote Testify

## Special Committee on Childcare Committee Testify List for Bill SB404 on 2024-04-17

Support: 10 Oppose: 2 Neutral: 59 Total to Testify: 0

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| Name | City, State<br>Email Address | Title | Representing | Position | Testifying | Non-Germane | Signed Up |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fenton, Donovan | SD 10, NH<br>donovan.fenton@leg.state.nh.us | An Elected Official | SD 10 | Support | No | No | 4/12/2024 3:08 PM |
| Fallon, Elizabeth | Mirror lake, NH<br>elizabethm.fallon@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/12/2024 5:47 PM |
| Purington, Kali | Wolfeboro, NH<br>Kali.purington@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/12/2024 5:53 PM |
| Matos, Priscilla | Nashua, NH<br>Cillaboom90@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/12/2024 5:57 PM |
| McCabe, Erin | Canaan, NH<br>erinhag8@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | Yes | 4/12/2024 7:31 PM |
| McKeown, Susan | MANCHESTER, NH<br>swmckeown48@yahoo.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/12/2024 8:29 PM |
| Dubois, Jillian | Concord, NH<br>jillianadubois@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/12/2024 10:34 PM |
| Colorusso, Melanie | Nashua, NH<br>mcolorusso@aol.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/13/2024 7:29 AM |
| Boardman, Susan | Rochester, NH<br>akasueb@hotmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/13/2024 2:28 PM |
| Howland, Curtis | Manchester, NH<br>howland@priss.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 4/14/2024 11:39 AM |
| Cote, Lois | Manchester, NH, NH<br>coldaf763@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/15/2024 2:22 PM |
| Larochelle, Katherine | Bedford, NH<br>KittyLaro@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/15/2024 2:48 PM |
| Doyle, Maria | Salem, NH<br>visualize_joy@yahoo.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/15/2024 2:53 PM |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Keskinen, Vicki | MILFORD, NH<br>Keskinen62@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/15/2024 3:23 PM |
| Locke, Kathryn | Stratford, NH<br>kathrynclw@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 4/15/2024 3:24 PM |
| Connolly, Beth | Manchester, NH<br>beth@stpetershome.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 11:27 AM |
| Watters, Senator David | Dover, NH<br>david.watters@leg.state.nh.us | An Elected Official | SD4 | Support | No | No | 4/16/2024 12:50 PM |
| McPhetres, Sunnie | Sharon, VT<br>sunnie.j.mcphetres@dartmouth.edu | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 1:37 PM |
| Wright, Olivia | Cornish, NH<br>olivia.hanchett51@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 1:38 PM |
| Small, Karen | Enfield, NH<br>smallkarenj@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 2:11 PM |
| Maffei, Kristin | Norwich, VT<br>kristin.maffei@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 2:15 PM |
| Moen, Erika | West Lebanon, NH<br>erikalinnmoen@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 2:17 PM |
| Sanders, Karen | North Sandwich, NH<br>klsanders@plymouth.edu | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 2:29 PM |
| Labbe, Jessica | Nashua, NH<br>jparnagian90@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | Yes | 4/16/2024 2:29 PM |
| Parsons, Corrie-Nicole | Campton, NH<br>corrie-nicole@hotmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 2:31 PM |
| daniels, brian | Concord, NH<br>bdaniels@sau8.org | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 4/16/2024 2:32 PM |
| Cooper, Alisha | ROCHESTER, NH<br>acooper@rochesterchildcare.org | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 4/16/2024 2:36 PM |
| Bailey, Amanda | Salisbury, NH<br>mandybaileynh@yahoo.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 2:47 PM |
| Deaver, Alicia | Keene, NH<br>adeaver@protonmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 2:50 PM |
| Ranfos, Lisa | Allenstown, NH<br>lisaranfos@comcast.net | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 2:53 PM |
| Neville, Stacy | Salem, NH<br>sneville@graniteymca.org | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 2:53 PM |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stahl, Amy | Derry, NH<br>amy@salemfamilyresources.org | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 4/16/2024 2:53 PM |
| Roberts, Shelli | Lancaster, NH<br>sroberts@seresc.net | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 2:56 PM |
| Barter, Marianne | Concord, NH<br>mariannebarter@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 4/16/2024 2:56 PM |
| keane, Mary Jane | Rye, NH<br>mjkeane55@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 3:17 PM |
| Chewlin, Jennice | Nashua, NH<br>jennice.chewlin@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 3:18 PM |
| Yackley, Cathleen | Bradford, NH<br>cassieyackleypsyd@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 3:25 PM |
| McPartlin, Deirdre | Keene, NH<br>deirdrehana@ne.rr.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 3:34 PM |
| Tremblay, linda | Claremont, NH<br>ltremblay@rsgnhvt.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 4/16/2024 3:38 PM |
| Shanley, James | Portsmouth, NH<br>james.shanley8@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 3:46 PM |
| Yevich, Stephen | Newfields, NH<br>scyevich@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 3:50 PM |
| Galipeault, Deborah | Wolfeboro, NH<br>dgalipeault@graniteymca.org | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 3:59 PM |
| Zahnouni, Sarah | Dover, NH<br>szahnouni@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 4:22 PM |
| Hart, Kristi | Gilmanton, NH<br>kristicowing@yahoo.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 5:20 PM |
| Loving, Caitlin | Manchester, NH<br>Caitlinestevens@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 5:24 PM |
| Judkins, Brenda | Webster, NH<br>thymless66@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 5:47 PM |
| Gluck, Tammy | NEWTON, NH<br>tammykgluck@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 6:35 PM |
| Smith, Julie | Nashua, NH<br>cantdog@comcast.net | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 4/16/2024 7:45 PM |
| hass, martha | Portsmouth, NH<br>marthahass@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 7:56 PM |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| shanley, Brenda | PORTSMOUTH, NH<br>bcshanley@hotmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 8:19 PM |
| Ireland, Donna | Newbury, NH<br>direland552@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 8:59 PM |
| Eldridge, Caitlin | Barrington, NH<br>caitlin.dugan1@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 9:18 PM |
| Clemans, Jillian | Brentwood, NH<br>jillian.clemans@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 9:27 PM |
| Sheppard, Michele | Goffstown, NH<br>msheppard@graniteymca.org | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 9:47 PM |
| Lovely-Taillon, David | Kingston, NH<br>dave@ymcacamplincoln.org | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 10:53 PM |
| Nolan, Richard | Hudson, NH<br>nolaninvestments@comcast.net | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/16/2024 11:12 PM |
| Hilfer, Melissa | Kingston, NH<br>melissa.hilfer@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/17/2024 6:27 AM |
| Rodenhauser Stewart, Cynthia | Manchester, NH<br>CBRStewart418@comcast.net | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/17/2024 6:35 AM |
| Grotheer, Stephanie | Fremont, NH<br>stepha148@aol.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/17/2024 7:40 AM |
| Carter, Amanda | Peterborough, NH<br>acarter@rivercenternh.org | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 4/17/2024 8:30 AM |
| Cormier, Lisa | Auburn, NH<br>lisa@stpetershome.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/17/2024 8:50 AM |
| VanKeulen, Reid | Exeter, NH<br>reidvk@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/17/2024 8:51 AM |
| Fogarty, Nicole | Exeter, NH<br>nicolef@sdymca.org | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/17/2024 9:55 AM |
| Wieder, Stefanie | Nashua, NH<br>stefgrossman@hotmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/17/2024 9:57 AM |
| Satlikova, Alisa | Effingham, NH, NH<br>asatlikova@thechildrenscenternh.org | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/17/2024 10:01 AM |
| Wagnitz, Kristina | Atkinson, NH<br>kristina@ymcacamplincoln.org | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/17/2024 10:06 AM |
| Smith, Dan | KEENE, NH<br>dsmith@keene-ymca.org | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/17/2024 11:30 AM |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Perkins Kwoka, Senator Rebecca | Portsmouth, NH<br>Rebecca.PerkinsKwoka@leg.state.nh.us | An Elected Official | SD21 | Support | No | No | 4/17/2024 11:46 AM |
| Hallock, Linda | Cornish, NH<br>LINDASH@MAIL.COM | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/17/2024 12:06 PM |
| Lawrence, Emily | Concord, NH<br>Lawrencee@waypointnh.org | A Lobbyist | Waypoint | Neutral | No | No | 4/17/2024 12:55 PM |
| Masucci, Kimberly | Exeter, NH<br>Kimberly@sdymca.org | A Member of the Public | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 4/17/2024 2:38 PM |

# SIGN UP SHEET

Register Your Opinion If Not Testifying

**Committee:** ~~Criminal Justice and Public Safety~~ Special committee on childcare

**Bill #:**
**SB 404-FN**

**Date:** 4/17/24

****Please Print All Information****

| Name | Address | Phone | Representing | Pro | Con |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cora-Lynn Hoppe | Rochester NH | | Myself | | Neutral |
| Airole Warden | | | | | Neutral |
| Crissy Traynor | | | | | Neutral |
| Lauren Martin | Amherst, NH | | Myself | | Neutral |
| Emily Lawrence, Waypoint | | 603-716-3392 | | | neutral |
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**SB 404-FN - AS INTRODUCED**

2024 SESSION

24-2970
05/08

SENATE BILL ***404-FN***

AN ACT relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.

SPONSORS: Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Fenton, Dist 10; Sen. Chandley, Dist 11; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Rep. McMahon, Rock. 17; Rep. D. Paige, Carr. 1; Rep. Simpson, Rock. 33; Rep. Wallner, Merr. 19

COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services

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ANALYSIS

This bill establishes eligibility criteria for child care professionals to receive child care scholarships.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

**SB 404-FN - AS INTRODUCED**

24-2970
05/08

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Four*

AN ACT relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 Statement of Findings. The general court hereby finds that:

I. The availability of quality, affordable, safe, and reliable child care is critical to allow parents to remain in the workforce, build a strong and future-focused economy, and provide a supportive environment for healthy child development that prepares children for success in school and in life.

II. Recently, the inherent fragility of New Hampshire's child care system has become undeniable and there is an urgent need to solidify the child care sector through system-based policy change and investment.

III. Broad investment in the child care system has been identified as emergent and necessary priorities from diverse stakeholders including, businesses, state leaders, providers, early care and education professional, higher education, faith leaders, and families across New Hampshire.

IV. Parents need and deserve equitable access and true choice in care for their children. Reliable, quality care not only supports parents to enter and stay in the workforce but provides critical health and development support for children.

V. The child care scholarship or subsidy plays a significant role in ensuring all New Hampshire families have choice and access to quality, safe, and reliable child care, regardless of income, geographic location, or field of work.

VI. New Hampshire has an opportunity to address the child care staffing shortage that is the result of compensation being too low to attract and retain the early childhood educators who provide care and education in support of children and families.

VII. New Hampshire recognizes that our child care professionals make far too little in wages and one way that the state can offer a fuller benefits package is by providing child care scholarships to child care professionals.

VIII. The child care staffing crisis has become so significant that many programs have at least one classroom closed due to a lack of staff members. Covering the cost of child care will not only entice child care providers back into classrooms but enable more classroom capacity – increasing overall opportunities for caregivers who want to return to work but cannot find care.

IX. Broadening categorical eligibility for child care scholarships to New Hampshire child care professionals will go far to alleviate staffing pressures by maximizing benefits and allowing centers to redirect funds to additional recruitment efforts.

2 New Subparagraph; New Hampshire Employment Program and Family Assistance Program; Rulemaking; Child Care Scholarship Program. Amend RSA 167:83, II by inserting after subparagraph (q) the following new subparagraph:

(r) Categorical eligibility for verified New Hampshire child care professionals, as permitted under federal law and regulation.

(1) Households with at least one verified New Hampshire child care professional employed at a qualified child care center, may automatically be eligible for a child care scholarship provided the following provisions are met:

(A) Each child in the household meets federal eligibility requirements that require each child to be:

(i) A resident of New Hampshire;

(ii) A U.S. citizen or qualified immigrant; and

(iii) Thirteen years of age or under at the time of application or recertification; or through 17 years of age for children with disabilities who are enrolled before the age of 13.

(B) Each eligible child resides with a verified New Hampshire child care professional. A verified New Hampshire child care professional means an individual who:

(i) Is a resident of New Hampshire;

(ii) Is employed by a certified child care center and works a minimum of 25 hours per week; and

(iii) Whose employment and eligibility is verified by the certified child care center at which the child care professional is employed.

(C) A certified child care center is a New Hampshire based, licensed child care center, licensed home child care center, or licensed-exempt center, that is registered and enrolled to accept child care scholarships with the state of New Hampshire.

(i) A family shall not be eligible if care is provided by a provider not licensed according to child-care center licensure rules; or registered and enrolled according to requirements for registered child care providers in the child care assistance program.

(ii) A family shall not be eligible if care is provided in a home child care by: a parent or stepparent; a legal guardian; or a person living in the same residence as the child in need of care.

(2) A household that meets the requirements outlined in subparagraph (1) shall be deemed categorically eligible and shall have all earned and unearned income excluded from the eligibility determination.

(3) Categorically eligible households qualify for the maximum child care scholarship benefit available according to the most current market rate survey for family size, child age, type of program and service level.

(4) Upon implementation, the department of health and human services shall develop and engage child care providers and/or staff on verification process for categorical eligibility and develop a public awareness campaign to support broad access.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

LBA
24-2970
Revised 12/26/23

**SB 404-FN- FISCAL NOTE**
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** [ X ] State [ ] County [ ] Local [ ] None

| Estimated State Impact - Increase / (Decrease) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **FY 2024** | **FY 2025** | **FY 2026** | **FY 2027** |
| **Revenue** | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| *Revenue Fund(s)* | None | | | |
| **Expenditures** | $0 | $18,530,000 to $26,940,000 | $19,610,000 to $28,020,000 | $20,590,000 to $29,420,000 |
| *Funding Source(s)* | General Fund | | | |
| **Appropriations** | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| *Funding Source(s)* | None | | | |

• Does this bill provide sufficient funding to cover estimated expenditures? [X] No
• Does this bill authorize new positions to implement this bill? [X] No

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill expands the eligibility criteria for child care professionals to receive child care scholarships. The Department of Health and Human Services makes the following estimates and assumptions:

- There are roughly 7,000 to 10,000 employees who work at eligible child care providers;
- Roughly 21% of these employees have children that would benefit from the program, resulting in 1,470 to 2,100 children being eligible for child care under the eligibility criteria established by the bill;
- The language "qualify for the maximum child care scholarship" means that workers eligible for child care scholarship will receive the maximum standard rate based on their level of service, age of children, and type of facility, without a household cost share.
- Categorically eligible children will fall into the following age groups:
    - 11% - birth to 17 Months;
    - 11% - 18 to 35 months;
    - 28% - 36 to 78 months;
    - 50% - 79 to 155 months.

Based on the demographics above, the average weekly benefit would be $244.37. The Department expect the benefits of categorical eligibility to cost between $18,680,000 and $26,690,000 in year one, with annual increases of five percent per year.

The Department notes that the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) does not allow for use of CCDF federal dollars for households with greater than 85% of the state median income. Since the bill requires that the child care scholarship program disregard all income and resources for categorically eligible children, CCDF dollars cannot be used. Therefore, the cost of the bill will be paid with state general funds.

In addition to the programmatic costs noted above, the Department states that it would need to make systems changes to its New HEIGHTS eligibility system. The Department expects the changes to cost approximately $250,000. The costs of the system changes will be one time, with no ongoing operational costs.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Health and Human Services

LBA
24-2970
Amended 4/18/24

**SB 404-FN FISCAL NOTE**
**AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE (AMENDMENT #2024-1344s)**

AN ACT directing the department of health and human services to submit a report regarding the establishment of a child care workforce child care assistance pilot program.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** [ ] State [ ] County [ ] Local [ X ] None

**METHODOLOGY:**

The Office of Legislative Budget Assistant states this bill, as amended by the Senate, will have no impact on state, county or local expenditures or revenue.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

None

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**May 15, 2024**

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Committee on Finance to which was referred SB 404-FN,**

**AN ACT (Second New Title) relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program. Having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment, and the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

**Rep. Mary Jane Wallner**

**FOR THE COMMITTEE**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

# COMMITTEE REPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| Committee: | **Finance** |
| Bill Number: | **SB 404-FN** |
| Title: | **(Second New Title) relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.** |
| Date: | **May 15, 2024** |
| Consent Calendar: | **REGULAR** |
| Recommendation: | **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 2024-1921h** |

## STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill expands the childcare scholarship program to include the children of childcare professionals. The scholarship will be available to families with incomes at or below median state income. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is required to submit any waiver or request required to the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Childcare to use federal funds for this initiative. DHHS also must provide a report to the legislature on this assistance program.

Vote 23-1.

Rep. Mary Jane Wallner
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

Finance

**SB 404-FN,** (Second New Title) relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mary Jane Wallner for Finance.

This bill expands the childcare scholarship program to include the children of childcare professionals. The scholarship will be available to families with incomes at or below median state income. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is required to submit any waiver or request required to the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Childcare to use federal funds for this initiative. DHHS also must provide a report to the legislature on this assistance program.

**Vote 23-1.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

Rep. Wallner, Merr. 19
May 13, 2024
2024-1921h
05/08

Amendment to SB 404-FN

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Department of Health and Human Services; Child Care Workforce Assistance Project.

I. The department of health and human services, division of economic stability, shall develop and implement a child care workforce assistance project to expand child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program. The duration of the project shall be from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025.

II. For purposes of the child care assistance project, child care centers that have participating, eligible staff shall, with the consent of the individual staff person, provide information to the department as requested regarding recruitment and retention impacts of the project.

III. The department shall use the information provided in accordance with paragraph II to make the determination as to whether the child care assistance project delivers the intended value as a recruitment and retention strategy for child care providers. This requirement shall not be construed as authorization to report personally identifiable information of the project participants.

IV. Households with an income equal to or less than the median income for the geographic area in which they reside, with at least one verified New Hampshire child care professional employed at a qualified child care center, may automatically be eligible for the child care assistance project, provided the following provisions are met:

(a) Each child in the household meets the same eligibility requirements of the current federal Child Care Scholarship program, specifically that each child shall be:

(1) A resident of New Hampshire;

(2) A U.S. citizen or qualified immigrant; and

(3) Thirteen years of age or under at the time of application or recertification; or through 17 years of age for children with disabilities who are enrolled before the age of 13.

(4) Any other federal eligibility criteria.

(b) Each eligible child resides with a verified New Hampshire child care professional. A verified New Hampshire child care professional means an individual who:

(1) Is a resident of New Hampshire;

(2) Is employed by a certified child care center and works a minimum of 25 hours per week; and

(3) Whose employment and eligibility are verified by the certified child care center at which the child care professional is employed.

(c) A certified child care center is a New Hampshire based, licensed child care center, licensed home child care center, or licensed-exempt center, that is registered and enrolled to accept child care scholarships with the state of New Hampshire.

(1) A family shall not be eligible if care is provided by a provider not licensed according to child-care center licensure rules; or registered and enrolled according to requirements for registered child care providers in the child care assistance program.

(2) A family shall not be eligible if care is provided in a home child care by: a parent or stepparent; a legal guardian; or a person living in the same residence as the child in need of care.

(d) A household that meets the requirements outlined in this paragraph shall have eligibility determined for the federally-funded child care scholarship program under the eligibility rules for the child care workforce assistance project. If the household does not meet the eligibility requirements of this paragraph, it shall be deemed ineligible for such assistance.

(e) Households eligible for the child care assistance project qualify for the child care scholarship benefit available according to the most current market rate survey for family size, child age, type of program and service level subject to the same cost share as families eligible for the child care scholarship program.

(f) Upon implementation, the department of health and human services shall develop and engage child care providers and/or staff on verification process for project eligibility and develop a public awareness campaign to support broad access.

V. The department may contract with a private entity to administer and manage the child care workforce assistance project established pursuant to this section.

VI. On or before November 1, 2025, the department shall provide a detailed report of the child care workforce assistance project to the house health and human services oversight committee and senate health and human services committee of the general court. The report shall include the following information:

(a) The number of individuals qualifying for existing childcare scholarship.

(b) The number of individuals who will be added as a result of the project.

(c) Any needed technology or other adjustments to implement the project.

(d) The suggested funding level going forward, should the project continue beyond its scheduled end date.

(e) Any other relevant information regarding the project.

2 Department of Health and Human Services; Waiver Request. The department of health and human services shall submit any waiver or request required by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care to use New Hampshire's Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds for the purpose of administering the child care workforce assistance project established in section 1 of this act.

3 Appropriation; Child Care Workforce Assistance Project.

I. The sum of $1,000,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services for the purpose of issuing benefits under the child care workforce assistance project established by this act.

II. The sum of $100,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services for the purpose of administering the child care workforce assistance project established by this act.

III. The governor shall first utilize any available federal funds, and any remainder shall be general funds. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for the general fund share of said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2025.

2024-1921h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a child care workforce assistance project, the purpose of which is to temporarily expand eligibility for the child care scholarship program to certain child care employees. The bill makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for this purpose.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 404-FN**

**BILL TITLE:** (Second New Title) relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.

**DATE:** May 14, 2024

**LOB ROOM:** 210-211

**MOTIONS:** **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Moved by Rep. Wallner | Seconded by Rep. Mooney | AM Vote: 25-0 |

Amendment # 2024-1921h

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Moved by Rep. Wallner | Seconded by Rep. Telerski | Vote: 23-1 |

**CONSENT CALENDAR: NO**

**Statement of Intent:** Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Joseph Pitre, Clerk

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 404-FN**

**BILL TITLE:** (Second New Title) relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.

**DATE:** MAY 14 2024

**LOB ROOM:** 210-211

---

**MOTION: (Please check one box)**

☑ OTP ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # 2024-1921h (*if offered*)

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Walker Seconded by Rep. Mooney Vote: 25-0

**MOTION: (Please check one box)**

☐ OTP ☑ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ (*if offered*)

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Walker Seconded by Rep. Peterski / Mooney Vote: 23-1

**MOTION: (Please check one box)**

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ (*if offered*)

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

**MOTION: (Please check one box)**

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ (*if offered*)

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

---

☐ **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** ____ **YES** ✓ **NO**

**Minority Report?** ____ Yes ✓ No If yes, author, Rep: _____ Motion_____

Respectfully submitted: _____

Rep Joseph Pitre, Clerk

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**
**OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK**

**2024 SESSION**

2/28/2024 12:08:43 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

**Finance**

MAY 14 2024

**Bill #:** SB 404 FN **Motion:** OTP/A **AM #:** 1921h **Exec Session Date:**

| Members | YEAS | Nays | NV |
|---|---|---|---|
| Weyler, Kenneth L. Chairman | 23 | | |
| Erf, Keith Vice Chairman | 1 | | |
| McGuire, Dan | 2 | | |
| Pitre, Joseph A. Clerk | 3 | | |
| Emerick, Tracy | 4 | | |
| Griffin, Gerald | 5 | | |
| Mooney, Maureen C. | 6 | | |
| Edwards, Jess C. | 7 | | |
| Bean, Harry H. | 8 | | |
| Hoell, J.R. | | 1 | |
| Sweeney, Joe | 9 | | |
| Cambrils, Jose E. | 10 | | |
| Popovici-Muller, Daniel | 11 | | |
| Wallner, Mary Jane | 12 | | |
| ~~Leishman, Peter R.~~ GROTE | 13 | | |
| Buco, Thomas L. | 14 | | |
| ~~Huot, David O.~~ LANE | 15 | | |
| Heath, Mary | + | | absent |
| ~~Murray, Kate R.~~ SCHAPIRO | 16 | | |
| Ebel, Karen E. | 17 | | |
| Telerski, Laura D. | 18 | | |
| Hakken-Phillips, Mary A. | 19 | | |
| Stringham, Jerry M. | 20 | | |
| Grassie, Chuck W. | 21 | | |
| Preece, David John | 22 | | |
| **TOTAL VOTE:** | 23 | 1 | |

Rep. Wallner, Merr. 19
May 13, 2024
2024-1921h
05/08

Amendment to SB 404-FN

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Department of Health and Human Services; Child Care Workforce Assistance Project.

I. The department of health and human services, division of economic stability, shall develop and implement a child care workforce assistance project to expand child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program. The duration of the project shall be from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025.

II. For purposes of the child care assistance project, child care centers that have participating, eligible staff shall, with the consent of the individual staff person, provide information to the department as requested regarding recruitment and retention impacts of the project.

III. The department shall use the information provided in accordance with paragraph II to make the determination as to whether the child care assistance project delivers the intended value as a recruitment and retention strategy for child care providers. This requirement shall not be construed as authorization to report personally identifiable information of the project participants.

IV. Households with an income equal to or less than the median income for the geographic area in which they reside, with at least one verified New Hampshire child care professional employed at a qualified child care center, may automatically be eligible for the child care assistance project, provided the following provisions are met:

(a) Each child in the household meets the same eligibility requirements of the current federal Child Care Scholarship program, specifically that each child shall be:

(1) A resident of New Hampshire;

(2) A U.S. citizen or qualified immigrant; and

(3) Thirteen years of age or under at the time of application or recertification; or through 17 years of age for children with disabilities who are enrolled before the age of 13.

(4) Any other federal eligibility criteria.

(b) Each eligible child resides with a verified New Hampshire child care professional. A verified New Hampshire child care professional means an individual who:

(1) Is a resident of New Hampshire;

(2) Is employed by a certified child care center and works a minimum of 25 hours per week; and

(3) Whose employment and eligibility are verified by the certified child care center at which the child care professional is employed.

UNAPPROVED

(c) A certified child care center is a New Hampshire based, licensed child care center, licensed home child care center, or licensed-exempt center, that is registered and enrolled to accept child care scholarships with the state of New Hampshire.

(1) A family shall not be eligible if care is provided by a provider not licensed according to child-care center licensure rules; or registered and enrolled according to requirements for registered child care providers in the child care assistance program.

(2) A family shall not be eligible if care is provided in a home child care by: a parent or stepparent; a legal guardian; or a person living in the same residence as the child in need of care.

(d) A household that meets the requirements outlined in this paragraph shall have eligibility determined for the federally-funded child care scholarship program under the eligibility rules for the child care workforce assistance project. If the household does not meet the eligibility requirements of this paragraph, it shall be deemed ineligible for such assistance.

(e) Households eligible for the child care assistance project qualify for the child care scholarship benefit available according to the most current market rate survey for family size, child age, type of program and service level subject to the same cost share as families eligible for the child care scholarship program.

(f) Upon implementation, the department of health and human services shall develop and engage child care providers and/or staff on verification process for project eligibility and develop a public awareness campaign to support broad access.

V. The department may contract with a private entity to administer and manage the child care workforce assistance project established pursuant to this section.

VI. On or before November 1, 2025, the department shall provide a detailed report of the child care workforce assistance project to the house health and human services oversight committee and senate health and human services committee of the general court. The report shall include the following information:

(a) The number of individuals qualifying for existing childcare scholarship.

(b) The number of individuals who will be added as a result of the project.

(c) Any needed technology or other adjustments to implement the project.

(d) The suggested funding level going forward, should the project continue beyond its scheduled end date.

(e) Any other relevant information regarding the project.

2 Department of Health and Human Services; Waiver Request. The department of health and human services shall submit any waiver or request required by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care to use New Hampshire's Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds for the purpose of administering the child care workforce assistance project established in section 1 of this act.

3 Appropriation; Child Care Workforce Assistance Project.

UNAPPROVED

I. The sum of $1,000,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services for the purpose of issuing benefits under the child care workforce assistance project established by this act.

II. The sum of $100,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services for the purpose of administering the child care workforce assistance project established by this act.

III. The governor shall first utilize any available federal funds, and any remainder shall be general funds. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for the general fund share of said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2025.

UNAPPROVED

2024-1921h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a child care workforce assistance project, the purpose of which is to temporarily expand eligibility for the child care scholarship program to certain child care employees. The bill makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for this purpose.

UNAPPROVED

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Finance**

**DIVISION III WORK SESSION ON SB 404-FN**

**BILL TITLE:** **(Second New Title) relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.**

**DATE:** **May 10, 2024**

**ROOM:** **210-211** **Time Work Session Called to Order: 11:36 a.m.**

**Time Adjourned: <<End Time>>**

(please circle if present)

**Committee Members: Edwards, Mooney, Erf, Hoell, Weyler, Wallner, Telerski, Stringham and Preece**

**Bill Sponsors:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sen. Whitley** | **Sen. Rosenwald** | **Sen. Perkins Kwoka** |
| **Sen. Soucy** | **Sen. Altschiller** | **Sen. Watters** |
| **Sen. Fenton** | **Sen. Chandley** | **Sen. Prentiss** |
| **Sen. D'Allesandro** | **Sen. Bradley** | **Rep. McMahon** |
| **Rep. D. Paige** | **Rep. Simpson** | **Rep. Wallner** |

**TESTIMONY**

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

*Amendment 1859h - Rep. **Mooney** will add date, line 15, to November 1, 2025 effective date.

Pilot Program - House version $2.5 million, this version no cost like Senate version.

Rep. **Wallner**: How can you report on a program that does not exist?

Amendment 1875 - 500% federal poverty level (FPL). House put $2.7 million in, I reduced it to $1 million so program would run for six months, Jan 1 to end of biennium. Can be contracted out. Program will be limited. Difficulties in finding workers - this gives incentive to make it a profession.

Rep. **Edwards**: What employment category qualifies for the program?

Rep. **Wallner**: No minimum qualification but must be in child care. 500% FPL family of four, $156,000.

Rep. **Edwards**: Sunset?
*Ans:* Automatic 6/30/25. Department could inclu.de it in budget request.

Rep. **Edwards**: Prefer a sunset date.

Reps. **Layon - Mooney** amendment change date to 2025.

Michele **Merritt**, President, New Futures: We estimate 5,150 child care workers. 7-800 have their own child, about 50% would be eligible, making $31,000/year. 350-400 families affected.

Rep. **Mooney** open to changing amendment.

Chair **Edwards**: A subcommittee with Reps. **Mooney**, **Wallner** and **Layon**, over lunch come up (with proposal).

Reconvene

Change median income to $35,000.
Change to a 'project' instead of 'program'..
Funds now lapse at end of biennium
Rep. **Mooney** has items on the report to include.

Rep. **Wallner** moved OTP/A, Rep. **Mooney** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

A combined amendment being drafted by Kevin **Ripple**, LBAO.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Kenneth L Weyler
Acting Clerk, Division III

Rep. Jerry Stringham
Clerk, Division III

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**
**OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK**

3/11/2024 4:28:57 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

**2024 SESSION**

**Finance - Division III**

1589h } Combined
1575h } work

**Bill #:** 404 **Motion:** OTPA **AM #:** TBD **~~Exec~~ Session Date:** 5/10/24

| Members | YEAS | Nays | NV |
|---|---|---|---|
| Edwards, Jess C. Chairman | ✓ | | |
| Mooney, Maureen C. Vice Chairman | ✓ | | |
| Erf, Keith | ✓ | | |
| ~~Hoell, J.R.~~ Layon | ✓ | | |
| Weyler, Kenneth L. | ✓ | | |
| Wallner, Mary Jane | ✓ | | |
| Telerski, Laura D. | ✓ | | |
| Stringham, Jerry M. | ✓ | | |
| Preece, David John | ✓ | | |
| **TOTAL VOTE:** | 9 | 0 | |

VOTE:

Wallner / ~~Telerski~~ Mooney

Combined amendment being drafted by Ripple

Rep. Mooney, Hills. 12
May 8, 2024
2024-1859h
05/06

Amendment to SB 404-FN

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT directing the department of health and human services to submit a report regarding the establishment of a child care workforce child care assistance pilot program.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Child Care Assistance Pilot Program; Reporting Requirement. The department of health and human services shall provide a report relative to the establishment of a child care workforce child care assistance pilot program to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chairpersons of the senate and house committees with jurisdiction over health and human services, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library. This report shall contain a budget proposal for the establishment of a child care workforce child care assistance pilot program within the department of health and human services, and shall be submitted on or before November 1, 2024.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

UNAPPROVED

2024-1859h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill directs the department of health and human services to submit a report and budget proposal regarding the establishment of a child care workforce child care assistance pilot program.

UNAPPROVED

Rep. Wallner, Merr. 19
May 9, 2024
2024-1875h
05/08

Amendment to SB 404-FN

Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 167:98, IV as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV. Households with an income less than or equal to 500 percent of the federal poverty level, with at least one verified New Hampshire child care professional employed at a qualified child care center, may automatically be eligible for the child care assistance program, provided the following provisions are met:

Amend RSA 167:98, V as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. The department may contract with a private entity to administer and manage the child care assistance program established pursuant to this section.

VI. On or before March 1, 2025, the department shall provide a detailed report of the assistance program to the health and human services oversight committee established in RSA 126-A:13, the house health, human services and elderly affairs committee, the senate health and human services committee, and the house and senate finance committees. The report shall include data on utilization, including the number of individuals seeking services of paragraph I, the number of individuals provided services as part of the program, the total cost of the services provided, and other relevant information necessary to assess the effectiveness and cost of the program.

Amend the bill by replacing sections 3 and 4 with the following:

3 Appropriation; Child Care Assistance Program for the Child Care Workforce.

I. The sum of $1,000,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services for the purpose of issuing benefits under the child care assistance program established by this act.

II. The sum of $100,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services for the purpose of administering the child care assistance program established by this act.

III. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

UNAPPROVED

IV. Funds appropriated shall be nonlapsing, and the department shall have the authority to transfer any remainder amounts in the child care workforce fund.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2025.

UNAPPROVED

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Finance**

**DIVISION III WORK SESSION ON SB 404-FN**

**BILL TITLE:** **(Second New Title) relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.**

**DATE:** **May 7, 2024**

**ROOM:** **210-211** **Time Work Session Called to Order: 11:36 a.m.**

**Time Adjourned: <<End Time>>**

(please circle if present)

**Committee Members: Edwards, Mooney, Erf, Hoell, Weyler, Wallner, Telerski, Stringham and Preece**

**Bill Sponsors:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sen. Whitley** | **Sen. Rosenwald** | **Sen. Perkins Kwoka** |
| **Sen. Soucy** | **Sen. Altschiller** | **Sen. Watters** |
| **Sen. Fenton** | **Sen. Chandley** | **Sen. Prentiss** |
| **Sen. D'Allesandro** | **Sen. Bradley** | **Rep. McMahon** |
| **Rep. D. Paige** | **Rep. Simpson** | **Rep. Wallner** |

**TESTIMONY**

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

*Amended FN 5/7/24

Brian **Clark**, General Counsel, Division of Economic Stability, DHHS

NH Child Care Scholarship already exits. Another program for childcare workers very similar.
- If parent is eligible, can enroll and depending on parent income sliding cost share
- Operate similar 71 HHI cost share and state pays rest. This is not offered to other professions.

What is the wage? $12-13/hr maybe
Unfilled positions? Unknown
Impact on current benefit programs? Probably transfer to the state but don't know.

Michele **Merritt**, Esq, President and , Rebecca **Woitkowski,** Esq, Children and Families Policy Director, New Futures:

-Child care vacancy 26% Kentucky subsidy retained more workers.

-Early childhood workforce. 20-24 most, 25-30 most left

- $31-$32 thousand/year. $27-$28 thousand/year care two kids,

Rep. **Layon**: In home care could make more with three kids. What is the impact?

Also study other zoning issues in child care. House version allows waiver now. New Futures doesn't support Senate version.

Rep. **Wallner** will work wit New Futures and push this bill forward.

Providers say they can use this as a recruit and retention effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep.
Acting Clerk, Division III

LBA
24-2970
Amended 5/7/24

# SB 404-FN FISCAL NOTE
## AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2024-1571h)

AN ACT relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** [ X ] State [ ] County [ ] Local [ ] None

| Estimated State Impact - Increase / (Decrease) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **FY 2024** | **FY 2025** | **FY 2026** | **FY 2027** |
| **Revenue** | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| *Revenue Fund(s)* | None | | | |
| **Expenditures** | $0 | $2.66 million - $3.16 million | $2.3 million - $2.8 million | $2.3 million - $2.8 million |
| *Funding Source(s)* | General Fund | | | |
| **Appropriations** | $0 | $2.55 million | $0 | $0 |
| *Funding Source(s)* | General Fund | | | |

- Does this bill provide sufficient funding to cover estimated expenditures? [X] See Below
- Does this bill authorize new positions to implement this bill? [X] No

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to create a child care assistance program for the child care workforce. In response to an earlier iteration of the bill, the Department projected that between 361 and 434 children would be eligible for the program. Assuming all eligible children will enroll in licensed child care facilities, the Department expects the average cost per eligible family (after family cost sharing requirements) to be $122.08 per week. Yearly costs are therefore expected to range from $2.3 million to $2.8 million. In addition, the Department assumes changes will need to be made to the New HEIGHTS eligibility system, at a one-time cost of $330,000.

The bill contains nonlapsing appropriations of $250,000 and $2,300,000 in FY 2025. As written, the bill does not contain language authorizing the governor to draw a warrant for the funds appropriated. Absent this language, the source of funds (though assumed to be general funds) is unclear, and there is no mechanism for the appropriation to be implemented.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Health and Human Services

**SB 404-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE**

02/15/2024 0566s
04/05/2024 1344s
2May2024... 1571h

2024 SESSION

24-2970
05/08

SENATE BILL ***404-FN***

AN ACT relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.

SPONSORS: Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Fenton, Dist 10; Sen. Chandley, Dist 11; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Rep. McMahon, Rock. 17; Rep. D. Paige, Carr. 1; Rep. Simpson, Rock. 33; Rep. Wallner, Merr. 19

COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a child care assistance program for the child care workforce and makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for this purpose.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

**SB 404-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE**

02/15/2024 0566s
04/05/2024 1344s
2May2024... 1571h

24-2970
05/08

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Four*

AN ACT relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 New Subdivision; Department of Health and Human Services; Child Care Assistance Program for Child Care Workforce. Amend RSA 167 by inserting after section 97 the following new subdivision:

Child Care Assistance Program for Child Care Workforce

167:98 Child Care Assistance Program for Child Care Workforce.

I. The department of health and human services, division of economic stability, shall develop and implement a child care assistance program for the child care workforce. The department shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to implementation and administration of the program.

II. For purposes of the assistance program, child care centers that have participating, eligible staff shall, with the consent of the individual staff person, provide information to the department as requested regarding recruitment and retention impacts of the program.

III. The department shall use the information provided in accordance with paragraph II to make the determination as to whether the child care assistance program delivers the intended value as a recruitment and retention strategy for child care providers. This requirement shall not be construed as authorization to report personally identifiable information of the program participants.

IV. Households with at least one verified New Hampshire child care professional employed at a qualified child care center, may automatically be eligible for the child care assistance program, provided the following provisions are met:

(a) Each child in the household meets the same eligibility requirements of the current federal Child Care Scholarship program, specifically that each child shall be:

(1) A resident of New Hampshire;

(2) A U.S. citizen or qualified immigrant; and

(3) Thirteen years of age or under at the time of application or recertification; or through 17 years of age for children with disabilities who are enrolled before the age of 13.

(4) Any other federal eligibility criteria.

(b) Each eligible child resides with a verified New Hampshire child care professional. A verified New Hampshire child care professional means an individual who:

(1) Is a resident of New Hampshire;

(2) Is employed by a certified child care center and works a minimum of 25 hours per week; and

(3) Whose employment and eligibility are verified by the certified child care center at which the child care professional is employed.

(c) A certified child care center is a New Hampshire based, licensed child care center, licensed home child care center, or licensed-exempt center, that is registered and enrolled to accept child care scholarships with the state of New Hampshire.

(1) A family shall not be eligible if care is provided by a provider not licensed according to child-care center licensure rules; or registered and enrolled according to requirements for registered child care providers in the child care assistance program.

(2) A family shall not be eligible if care is provided in a home child care by: a parent or stepparent; a legal guardian; or a person living in the same residence as the child in need of care.

(d) A household that meets the requirements outlined in paragraph IV shall have eligibility determined for the federally-funded child care scholarship program under existing eligibility rules and be denied for being over income as a pre-requisite to consideration for the child care assistance program. If the household does not meet the eligibility income level requirements, it shall be deemed eligible for the assistance program and shall have all earned and unearned income excluded from the eligibility determination.

(e) Households eligible for the assistance program qualify for the child care scholarship benefit available according to the most current market rate survey for family size, child age, type of program and service level subject to the same cost share as families eligible for the child care scholarship program.

(f) Upon implementation, the department of health and human services shall develop and engage child care providers and/or staff on verification process for program eligibility and develop a public awareness campaign to support broad access.

V. On or before March 1, 2025, the department shall provide a detailed report of the assistance program to the house health and human services oversight committee and senate health and human services committee of the general court. The report shall include data on utilization, including the number of individuals seeking services of paragraph I, the number of individuals provided services as part of the program, the total cost of the services provided, and other relevant information necessary to assess the effectiveness and cost of the program.

2 Department of Health and Human Services; Waiver Request. The department of health and human services shall submit any waiver or request required by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care to use New Hampshire's Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds for the purpose of administering the child care assistance program established in section 1 of this act.

3 Appropriation. The sum of $250,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services for the purpose of information system enhancements to implement this assistance program. The sum of $2,300,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services for the administration, management, and benefit issuance of the child care assistance program for the child care workforce. Funds appropriated shall be nonlapsing and the department shall have the authority to transfer any remainder amounts in the child care workforce fund.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

LBA
24-2970
Amended 4/18/24

**SB 404-FN- FISCAL NOTE**
**AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE (AMENDMENT #2024-1344s)**

AN ACT directing the department of health and human services to submit a report regarding the establishment of a child care workforce child care assistance pilot program.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** [ ] State [ ] County [ ] Local [X] None

**METHODOLOGY:**

The Office of Legislative Budget Assistant states this bill, as amended by the Senate, will have no impact on state, county or local expenditures or revenue.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

None