

HB 1566-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2487

05/08

HOUSE BILL

***1566-FN-A***

AN ACT

making a contingent appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of providing recruitment and benefit grants to child care employers.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Wallner, Merr. 19; Rep. Muns, Rock. 29; Rep. D. Paige, Carr. 1; Rep. M. Smith, Straf. 10; Rep. Simpson, Rock. 33; Rep. Telerski, Hills. 11; Rep. Preece, Hills. 17; Rep. Stringham, Graf. 3; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Innis, Dist 7

COMMITTEE:

Finance

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ANALYSIS

This bill makes a contingent appropriation to the department of health and human services for recruitment and benefit grants for child care employers if the federal government denies the use of TANF reserve funds for such purpose.

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Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six*

AN ACT making a contingent appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of providing recruitment and benefit grants to child care employers.

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

1 1 Department of Health and Human Services; Recruitment and Benefit Grants for Child Care  
2 Employers; Contingent Appropriation. Amend 2025, 141:431, I to read as follows:

3 I. The sums of \$7,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 and \$7,500,000 for the  
4 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 are hereby appropriated from federal TANF reserve funds to the  
5 department of health and human services for the purpose of financing recruitment and retention  
6 bonus and benefit grants for New Hampshire child care employers. The appropriation is contingent  
7 upon the department seeking formal approval from the federal Department of Health and Human  
8 Services to use the funds for the purposes specified in this section. If necessary, and if a waiver  
9 process is available, the department of health and human services shall seek a waiver to use the  
10 funds for these purposes. The department shall make the initial request no later than August 1,  
11 2025, and upon receiving a determination, shall notify the fiscal committee of the general court of  
12 the decision received. ***If by July 1, 2026, the federal government has either failed to make a  
13 determination or has denied the use of federal TANF reserve funds for the purposes  
14 specified in this paragraph, the sum of \$15,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,  
15 shall be appropriated to the department of health and human services for the purpose of  
16 financing recruitment and benefit grants for New Hampshire child care employers. Said  
17 sum shall be nonlapsing, and the governor is authorized to draw a warrant out of any  
18 money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.***

19 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

**HB 1566-FN-A- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT making a contingent appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of providing recruitment and benefit grants to child care employers.

**FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not authorize new positions.**

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
<b>Expenditures*</b>	\$0	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
<b>Appropriations*</b>	\$0	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			

\*Expenditure = Cost of bill

\*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill provides general funds to the Department of Health and Human Services in the event that federal funds may not be used to finance recruitment retention bonus and benefit grants for New Hampshire child care employers. Chapter 141:431, Laws of 2025 (the FY26/27 budget trailer bill) appropriated \$7.5 million of federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) reserve funds in each year of the biennium for this purpose. During the budget process, the Department testified that this use of TANF funds would likely be deemed unallowable by the federal government. For this reason, the trailer bill required the Department to seek federal authorization for this use of the funds, and directed the Department to request a federal waiver if available. The current bill contains a nonlapsing general fund appropriation of \$15 million in FY2027 in the event that, by July 1, 2026, the federal government has either failed to make a determination or has denied this use of federal TANF reserve funds. Based on its correspondence with the federal Administration for Children and Families, the Department has concluded that federal TANF reserve funds may not be used for the specified purposes. Therefore, it is anticipated the entire \$15 million general fund appropriation will be used by the Department for the purposes recruitment retention bonus and benefit grants for New Hampshire child care employers in FY 2027.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Health and Human Services