

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0303

Wyoming first children's finance authority-2.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Wallis

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the administration of government;
2 establishing a program to promote child care and early
3 childhood education; providing for business and financial
4 services to child care and early childhood education
5 providers; providing for administration of the program;
6 providing rulemaking authority; requiring reports;
7 authorizing the transfer of funds from the business ready
8 community account to the department of workforce services;
9 and providing for an effective date.

10

11 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

12

13 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-2-2608 and 9-2-2609 are created to
14 read:

15

16 **9-2-2608. Wyoming first children's finance program;**
17 **purpose; definitions.**

1

2 (a) The legislature finds and declares that:

3

4 (i) There is in Wyoming, a critical need for
5 quality and affordable child care and early childhood
6 education;

7

8 (ii) It is in the public interest of the
9 citizens of Wyoming to enhance and expand child care and
10 early childhood education in order to promote quality and
11 affordable child care and early childhood development of
12 the children of Wyoming;

13

14 (iii) It is the purpose of this article to
15 enhance and expand child care and early childhood
16 education, to encourage private investment in child care
17 and early childhood education, to increase the availability
18 and affordability of quality child care and early childhood
19 education throughout Wyoming and to provide for cooperation
20 between home-based, school-based and preschool programs and
21 the department;

22

1 (iv) This article constitutes a valid public
2 purpose, of primary benefit to all citizens of the state of
3 Wyoming.

4

5 (b) As used in this article:

6

7 (i) "Contractor" means the nonprofit
8 organization contracting with the department to provide
9 assistance with child care and early childhood education
10 development;

11

12 (ii) "Department" means the department of
13 workforce services;

14

15 (iii) "Financial assistance" means the resources
16 to expand or start child care and early education
17 businesses to improve the quality of facilities, facility
18 additions, remodeling and upgrades, the purchase of
19 supplies and equipment, the fulfillment of licensing
20 requirements and the provision of technical assistance
21 related to helping manage cash flow to strengthen and grow
22 providers;

23

1 (iv) "Program" means the Wyoming first
2 children's finance program;

3

4 (v) "Provider" means a child care or early
5 childhood education facility or business.

6

7 **9-2-2609. Wyoming first children's finance program;**
8 **creation; rulemaking.**

9

10 (a) The department shall establish and administer a
11 Wyoming first children's finance program as provided by
12 this section and W.S. 9-2-2608. The department may
13 promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the
14 implementation of this program.

15

16 (b) The purpose of this program is to:

17

18 (i) Increase availability of quality, affordable
19 child care and early childhood education throughout
20 Wyoming;

21

22 (ii) Provide business planning assistance to
23 providers;

24

1 (iii) Provide financial assistance and support
2 to enhance and expand providers; and

3

4 (iv) Encourage private investment in quality
5 providers.

6

7 (c) The department shall contract with any contractor
8 in accordance with the purposes of this section. The
9 contractor shall have demonstrated the ability to analyze
10 financing projects, have knowledge of other sources of
11 public and private financing for child care and early
12 childhood education providers, have a relationship with
13 regional resource and referral programs and have knowledge
14 about child care and early childhood education,
15 development, improvement and financing. The contractor
16 shall provide nonstate funds to be used as a revolving loan
17 fund accessible to Wyoming providers of not less than five
18 hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00).

19

20 (d) The department may enter into an agreement with
21 the Wyoming early childhood partnership to provide advice
22 and make recommendations to the contractor to help connect
23 the contractor and providers with available resources and
24 to ensure the alignment and integration of child care and

1 early childhood education programs with other related
2 services in Wyoming.

3

4 (e) The contractor shall submit an annual report to
5 the department, on or before September 1, beginning in
6 2010. The department shall submit the report to the joint
7 minerals, business and economic development interim
8 committee, the joint appropriations interim committee and
9 the governor's office on or before October 1 of each year.
10 The report shall include:

11

12 (i) A summary of financial assistance provided
13 including the number of child care businesses assisted and
14 the increased number of child care positions available;

15

16 (ii) Any recommendations for programs to provide
17 for future investments for business planning assistance to
18 providers that are in a growth mode and are committed to
19 quality improvements;

20

21 (iii) Any recommendations for statutory changes;

22

23 (iv) Any additional information required by the
24 department to ensure compliance with this article.

1

2 **Section 2.** W.S. 9-2-2601(g) (v) and (vi) and by
3 creating a new paragraph (vii) is amended to read:

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5 **9-2-2601. Department of workforce services; duties**
6 **and responsibilities; agreements with other agencies**
7 **authorized; definition.**

8

9 (g) The department shall take appropriate steps to:

10

11 (v) Conduct and publish results of
12 investigations and research studies;~~and~~

13

14 (vi) Assist the Wyoming workforce development
15 council and the state youth council in pursuing their
16 missions and goals; ~~and~~

17

18 (vii) Encourage and stimulate private sector
19 involvement, support and funding for the program.

20

21 **Section 3.** There is appropriated five hundred
22 thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) to the Wyoming department of
23 workforce services from general fund appropriations made to
24 the business ready community program pursuant to 2008

1 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 48, Section 2, Section 085.
2 This appropriation shall be for the period beginning with
3 the effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2010.
4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this transfer
5 shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose
6 and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
7 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
8 2010. This appropriation shall only be expended for
9 administration and contract services to enhance and expand
10 child care and early childhood education facilities or
11 businesses in Wyoming.

12

13 **Section 4.** This act is effective immediately upon
14 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
15 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
16 Constitution.

17

18

(END)