The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4285 (1R), with committee amendments.

The bill, as amended, allows licensed child care centers, required to perform an environmental evaluation and assessment pursuant to law, to seek reimbursement from the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund of up to $1,500 for the cost of the evaluation and assessment.

The bill also allows an owner or operator of a licensed child care center or a prospective owner or operator of a child care center who has applied for a license to seek a grant of $1,500 from the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund for the costs of a preliminary assessment performed in order to obtain a no further action letter as required pursuant to the provisions of subsection b. of section 2 of P.L.2007, c.1 (C.52:27D-130.5) or performed as part of the child care center licensing requirements established by the Department of Children and Families.

The bill amends the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund to permit funds to be allocated for the purposes specified under the bill. The bill also requires the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to establish grant application procedures and requires the authority to authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to implement a program for grants to be awarded pursuant to the bill.

As amended by the committee, the bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2737 (1R).

FISCAL IMPACT:

Grant moneys would be allocated from the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund. It is not known how many licensed child care centers would apply for this grant money.
COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments to the bill:

1) clarify that the child care center licensing requirements are those established by the Department of Children and Families;

2) require the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to establish grant application procedures and require the authority to authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to implement a program for grants to be awarded pursuant to the bill; and

3) provide that the Department of Environmental Protection, rather than the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance as may be necessary for the implementation of this bill upon enactment into law.