

SENATE, No. 2227

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 17, 1997

By Senators SINAGRA and KOSCO

1 AN ACT concerning child care services and supplementing chapter 5B  
2 of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. As used in this act:

8 "Child care services" means child care arrangements authorized for  
9 payment by the State and administered by the Department of Human  
10 Services, for victims of domestic violence, including, but not limited  
11 to, in-home child care, licensed child care centers, registered family  
12 day care homes, approved family day care homes, centers for children  
13 with special needs, centers serving sick children, infant-toddler  
14 programs and school-age child care programs.

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16 2. a. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the State shall pay  
17 for the cost of child care services for the child of a parent who is the  
18 victim of domestic violence, as defined by the provisions of the  
19 "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261  
20 (C.2C:25-17 et al.), for a total period of six months pursuant to the  
21 requirements of this act.

22 b. At the time a temporary restraining order has been filed pursuant  
23 to the provisions of section 12 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-28), a  
24 parent who is a victim of domestic violence shall be informed of the  
25 department's child care services program, the program's eligibility  
26 requirements and the parent's rights and obligations in applying for  
27 and receiving services under the program. The parent may then make  
28 an application for the services with the Department of Human  
29 Services.

30 c. All information contained in a parent's application for the child  
31 care services pursuant to this act shall remain confidential and shall be  
32 disclosed only for purposes directly related to the provision of child  
33 care services pursuant to this act.

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35 3. a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish criteria  
36 for determining financial and programmatic eligibility for child care  
37 services under the provisions of this act, including provisions for the

1 submission of proof of a parent's income and resources, and such other  
2 documentation as may be necessary to establish eligibility.

3 b. The commissioner shall establish resource limits and a sliding fee  
4 scale applicable to a participating parent based on income guidelines  
5 and the maximum authorized child care payment rates utilized by the  
6 department for its subsidized child care services programs.

7 c. The commissioner shall adopt such rules and regulations pursuant  
8 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1  
9 et seq.) as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

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11 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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14 STATEMENT

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16 This bill requires the State to pay for the cost of child care services  
17 for the child of a parent who is a victim of domestic violence, as  
18 defined by the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991,"  
19 P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et al.), for a total period of six months.  
20 As defined in the bill "child care services" would mean child care  
21 arrangements administered by the Department of Human Services for  
22 victims of domestic violence, including, but not limited to, in-home  
23 child care, licensed child care centers, registered family day care  
24 homes, approved family day care homes, centers for children with  
25 special needs, centers serving sick children, infant-toddler programs  
26 and school-age child care programs.

27 Under the provisions of the bill, at the time a temporary restraining  
28 order is filed pursuant to the provisions of section 12 of P.L.1991,  
29 c.261 (C.2C:25-28), a parent who is a victim of domestic violence  
30 would be informed of the department's child care services program, its  
31 eligibility requirements and the rights and obligations of the parent  
32 when applying for and receiving the services. The parent would then  
33 be able to make an application for services with the department. The  
34 information contained in the application would be kept confidential.

35 The bill authorizes the Commissioner of Human Services to:

36 1. establish criteria for determining financial and programmatic  
37 eligibility for child care services under the provisions of the bill; and

38 2. establish resource limits and a sliding fee scale applicable to  
39 participating parents based on income guidelines and the maximum  
40 authorized child care payment rates utilized by the department for its  
41 subsidized child care services programs.

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45 Requires the State to pay for child care services for victims of  
46 domestic violence.