

**SENATE, No. 3990**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

---

INTRODUCED JUNE 21, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes child care revitalization fund in Department of Children and Families; appropriates \$100,000,000

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing a child care revitalization fund, appropriating  
2 \$100,000,000, and supplementing Title 30 of the New Jersey  
3 Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. Working mothers in New Jersey and across the nation have  
10 been disparately affected by child care and school closures during  
11 the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

12 b. According to the United States Census Bureau, 1.6 million  
13 fewer women with school-aged children were actively working in  
14 January 2021, when compared with January 2020.

15 c. A Kaiser family Foundation survey conducted in late 2020  
16 found that 30 percent of working mothers interviewed had taken  
17 time off from work due to child care or school closures.

18 d. Without access to affordable, high-quality child care, New  
19 Jersey's working mothers will continue to face the difficult choice  
20 between caring for their young children and their careers.

21 e. Fully-operating schools and licensed child care providers are  
22 critical to the New Jersey's reopening plan, as well as the State's  
23 economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

24 f. Too many licensed child care providers have been unable to  
25 re-open following pandemic-related closures, due to high operating  
26 costs and reduced capacity required to slow the spread of COVID-  
27 19.

28 g. It is in the public interest for the Legislature to create a fund  
29 to address the critical child care and economic issues faced by the  
30 State's working families and licensed child care providers.

31

32 2. a. There is created within the Department of Children and  
33 Families a dedicated, non-lapsing fund to be known as the Child  
34 Care Revitalization Fund for the purpose of supporting child care  
35 providers, licensed pursuant to P.L.1983, c.492 (C.30:5B-1 et seq.),  
36 who were severely impacted by high operating costs and reduced  
37 capacity required to mitigate the health impact of the coronavirus  
38 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

39 b. The Commissioner of the Department of Children and  
40 Families, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services  
41 and the Chief Executive of the Economic Development Authority,  
42 shall establish processes by which licensed child care providers may  
43 submit, through an online portal, applications for assistance through  
44 the fund, and by which the allocation of resources from the fund  
45 may be prioritized.

46 c. Authorized allocations from the fund are to be disbursed to  
47 licensed child care providers within 21 days of the department's  
48 receipt of a qualifying application, as submitted by a provider

1 through the online portal established pursuant to this act, prior to  
2 September 1, 2021.

3 d. The commissioner, pursuant to the “Administrative  
4 Procedure Act” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt  
5 such rules and regulations as necessary to implement the provisions  
6 of this act.

7  
8 3. There is appropriated \$100,000,000 from the General Fund  
9 to the Department of Children and Families to effectuate the  
10 purposes of this act.

11  
12 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

13  
14  
15 STATEMENT

16  
17 This bill establishes the Child Care Revitalization Fund, a  
18 dedicated, non-lapsing fund to be administered by the Department  
19 of Children and Families for the purpose of providing financial  
20 support to the State’s licensed child care providers. The bill  
21 authorizes the Commissioner of Children and Families, in  
22 consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the  
23 Chief Executive of the Economic Development Authority, to  
24 develop processes by which licensed child care providers may  
25 submit, through an online portal, applications for assistance through  
26 the fund, and by which the allocation of resources from the fund  
27 may be prioritized. Authorized allocations from the fund are to be  
28 disbursed to licensed child care providers within 21 days of the  
29 department’s receipt of a qualifying application, as submitted by a  
30 provider through the online portal established pursuant to this act,  
31 prior to September 1, 2021.

32 It is the intent of the bill’s sponsors to provide critical assistance  
33 to the State’s licensed child care providers who were severely  
34 impacted by high operating costs and reduced capacity required to  
35 mitigate the effects of the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.  
36 Numerous surveys conducted since the start of the pandemic  
37 evidence the staggering number of working mothers who have had  
38 to choose between caring for their young children and their careers.  
39 Without a sufficient network of high quality, affordable licensed  
40 child care providers in our communities, parents of young children  
41 will be unable to return to work on a full-time as the State economy  
42 reopens in the coming months, and the State’s economic recovery  
43 will falter.