

HB0849/193322/1

BY: Ways and Means Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 849
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, after “**Mireku-North**” insert “, **McCaskill, Palakovich Carr**”; in the same line, strike “**and Young**” and substitute “**Young, Ebersole, Feldmark, Pasteur, Patterson, and Wilkins**”; in line 2, after “**Exceptions**” insert “**and Waitlist**”; strike beginning with “individuals” in line 5 down through “provider” in line 6 and substitute “**and children who are homeless; requiring the State Department of Education to establish a waitlist for the Program under certain conditions; requiring the Department to give priority for enrollment in the Program to certain individuals on the waitlist; requiring the Department to develop a new application for the Program that collects certain information**”; and in line 7, after the second “in” insert “**and a waitlist for**”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, in line 21, strike “The” and substitute “**EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 9.5-113(D) OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE**”; in line 23, after “**(1)**” insert “**(I)**”; in lines 24, 27, 29, and 31, strike “**(I)**”, “**(II)**”, “**(III)**”, and “**(IV)**”, respectively, and substitute “**1.**”, “**2.**”, “**3.**”, and “**4.**”, respectively; in line 29, after “**CHILD**” insert “, **PARENT, OR CAREGIVER**”; in the same line, strike “**SOCIAL**” and substitute “**SUPPLEMENTAL**”; and in line 32, after the semicolon insert “**AND**”.

On page 4, strike beginning with “**(V)**” in line 1 down through the second “**HOME**” in line 17 and substitute “**5. A CHILD WHO IS HOMELESS**”; in line 18, strike “**(2)**” and substitute “**(II)**”; strike beginning with “**PARAGRAPH**” in line 18 down through “**SUBSECTION**” in line 19 and substitute “**SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH**”; after line 20, insert:

“(2) (I) IF THE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHES A FREEZE IN PROGRAM ENROLLMENT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A WAITLIST FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO APPLY TO THE PROGRAM AFTER THE FREEZE IS IN EFFECT.

(II) THE WAITLIST SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT AS LONG AS THERE ARE FEWER AVAILABLE AWARDS UNDER THE PROGRAM THAN ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS FOR THE PROGRAM.

(III) THE WAITLIST SHALL PROVIDE AWARDS FOR ENROLLMENT IN THE PROGRAM TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER OF PRIORITY:

1. APPLICANTS WITH THE GREATEST FINANCIAL NEED, BASED ON ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME;

2. APPLICANTS WHO WORK FOR AT LEAST 20 HOURS A WEEK AS AN EMPLOYEE OR OPERATOR OF A CHILD CARE CENTER, A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME, A LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME, OR AN ELIGIBLE PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM UNDER TITLE 7, SUBTITLE 1A OF THIS ARTICLE THAT ACCEPTS CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM;

3. APPLICANTS ENROLLING A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 3 YEARS; AND

4. APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE WAITLIST FOR THE LONGEST PERIOD OF TIME.”;

after line 29, insert:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The State Department of Education shall develop a new application for the Child Care Scholarship Program that collects information necessary to determine whether an individual is employed for at least 20 hours a week by a child care center, a

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family child care home, a large family child care home, or an eligible publicly funded prekindergarten program that accepts Child Care Scholarship recipients.

(b) In implementing a waitlist for applicants for the Child Care Scholarship Program as required by § 9.5–111(e) of the Education Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, the Department shall focus on enrolling other eligible applicants prioritized on the waitlist until the new application is developed in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) (1) The State Department of Education shall review the methodology used to determine whether a parent or guardian is attending a job training program for the purposes of determining eligibility for a scholarship under the Child Care Scholarship Program.

(2) In conducting its review, the Department shall consider alternative methods of measuring job training that could result in qualifying additional applicants.

(b) On or before December 15, 2026, the Department shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on the results of its review.”;

in line 30, strike “2.” and substitute “4.”; and in line 31, after “2026” insert “, contingent on the taking effect of Chapter (H.B. 1321) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2026, and if Chapter (H.B. 1321) does not take effect, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be null and void”.