

HOUSE BILL NO. 456

INTRODUCED BY J. KARLEN, J. REAVIS, L. MUSZKIEWICZ, B. EDWARDS, J. ISALY, M. LEE, P. STRAND, J. SECKINGER, B. CLOSE, P. ELVERUM, S. FYANT, J. WEBER, A. GRIFFITH, M. CUNNINGHAM, D. BAUM, B. CARTER, J. COHENOUR, C. KEOGH, E. STAFMAN, D. JOY

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXPANDING THE BEST BEGINNINGS CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO CHILD-CARE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY A LICENSED DAY-CARE CENTER OR REGISTERED FAMILY OR GROUP DAY-CARE HOME; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTIONS 52-2-714 AND 52-2-715, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 52-2-714, MCA, is amended to read:

"52-2-714. Best beginnings child care scholarship program. There is a best beginnings child care scholarship program administered by the department. The program is established to provide scholarships to qualified low-income families and eligible child-care workers employed at a licensed day-care center or registered family or group day-care home whose child received care provided by a licensed or registered child care-child-care provider or day-care facility."

Section 2. Section 52-2-715, MCA, is amended to read:

"52-2-715. Family income eligibility -- child-care worker eligibility -- requirements. (1) ~~In~~ Except as provided in subsection (2), in determining income eligibility for qualified low-income families for the best beginnings child care scholarship program, the department shall:

(1)(a) set a qualifying income threshold at no less than 185% of the federal poverty level for each family size; and

(2)(b) set a maximum qualifying income level that is no higher than that allowed by the federal child care and development block grant.

