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HOUSE BILL NO. 2206

Offered January 13, 2021
Prefiled January 13, 2021

A BILL to establish the COVID-19 Child Care Assistance Program to provide financial assistance for child care to families in need during the public health emergency; emergency.

Patrons—Filler-Corn, Convirs-Fowler, Tran, Willett, Adams, D.M., Aird, Askew, Ayala, Bagby, Bourne, Carr, Carter, Gooditis, Guy, Hayes, Helmer, Herring, Hurst, Jenkins, Keam, Kory, Krizek, Levine, Lopez, McQuinn, Mugler, Mundon King, Murphy, Plum, Price, Rasoul, Reid, Samirah, Sickles, Simon, Simonds, Subramanyam, Sullivan, Watts and Williams Graves

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Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. *§ 1. That the COVID-19 Child Care Assistance Program (the Program) is established to provide financial assistance for child care to families in need during the public health emergency caused by COVID-19. The Program shall be administered by the Department of Education (the Department).*

§ 2. The Department shall create a process through which applicants may apply online to participate in the Program. The Department shall provide to eligible participants information regarding child care services in the Commonwealth and a list of child care providers that are eligible to receive vouchers through the Program in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 9858n(6). After a Program participant has selected an eligible child care provider, the Department shall issue a voucher directly to the provider and provide notice of the amount of the voucher to the Program participant. Vouchers may be issued for full-time or part-time child care services, depending on the needs of the applicant.

§ 3. An applicant shall be eligible to participate in the Program if the applicant's household income is at or below 100 percent of the state median income or regional median income, whichever is greater, adjusted for family size and the applicant's child for whom a voucher will be issued is 13 years of age or younger.

2. That an emergency exists and this act is in force from its passage.

3. That the provisions of this act shall expire on the last day of the sixth month after its passage.

INTRODUCED

HB2206