

H. B. No. 96
As Introduced

_____ moved to amend as follows:

After line 77933, insert:

"Sec. 5104.54. (A) The child care cred program is created in the department of children and youth, under which the costs of child care are shared equally by participating employees, their employers, and, subject to available funds, the department. The program has all of the following goals: enabling employers to attract and retain talent; assisting employees with child care costs; and sustaining the businesses of child care providers.

(B) To be eligible to participate in the program, all of the following apply:

(1) In the case of an employee, the employee shall reside in this state and have been selected for participation by the employee's employer.

(2) In the case of an employer, the employer shall be located in this state and have selected one or more of its employees to participate in the program.

(3) In the case of a child care provider, the provider shall either hold a license issued under this chapter or be



certified by a county department of job and family services 20
under section 5104.12 of the Revised Code. 21

(C) Each employee and employer seeking to participate in 22
the program shall together submit an application to the 23
department in a manner prescribed by the department. The 24
department shall review each application as soon as practicable 25
after it is received and shall determine if the employee and 26
employer are both eligible to participate. 27

(D) After an employee and employer are both determined 28
eligible and agree to participate in the program, all of the 29
following apply: 30

(1) The employee, with the assistance of the department, 31
shall select a child care provider for the employee's child and 32
shall enroll the child with the provider. An employee may opt to 33
select the employee's existing child care provider so long as 34
that provider is licensed or certified as described in this 35
section. 36

(2) In addition to the employer's share, the employer may 37
agree to contribute some or all of an employee's share of child 38
care costs. 39

(3) As a condition of participation, the department may 40
require the employee, employer, and child care provider to each 41
sign a memorandum of understanding with the department. 42

(4) The department is responsible for coordinating and 43
performing all administrative activities associated with the 44
sharing of child care costs and making payments to child care 45
providers. 46

(E) An eligibility determination made under division (C) 47

of this section remains valid as long as the employee, employer, 48
and child care provider continue to satisfy the eligibility 49
conditions described in division (B) of this section. 50

(F) If the department finds that an employee or employer 51
has committed fraud, misrepresentation, or deception in applying 52
to participate, or in participating, in the program, the 53
employee or employer is permanently ineligible to participate, 54
or continue to participate, in the program. 55

(G) (1) The department may adopt rules as necessary to 56
implement this section. Any rules shall be adopted in accordance 57
with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. 58

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of section 121.95 of the 59
Revised Code to the contrary, a regulatory restriction contained 60
in a rule adopted under division (G) (1) of this section is not 61
subject to sections 121.95 to 121.953 of the Revised Code." 62

In the table on line 111288, after row N, insert: 63

" 64

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|-----|--------|-------------------------|--------------|-----|
| A | GRF | 830414 | Child Care Cred Program | \$10,000,000 | \$0 |

" 66

In the table on line 111288, in rows X and AX, add 67
\$10,000,000 to fiscal year 2026 68

After line 111384, insert: 69

"**Section 423.85.** CHILD CARE CRED PROGRAM 70

The foregoing appropriation item 830414, Child Care Cred 71

Program, shall be used for the Child Care Cred Program 72
 established in section 5104.54 of the Revised Code." 73
 Update the title, amend, enact, or repeal clauses accordingly 74

The motion was _____ agreed to.

SYNOPSIS 75

Child Care Cred Program 76

R.C. 5104.54; Sections 423.10 and 423.85 77

Creates the Child Care Cred Program in the Department of 78
 Children and Youth (DCY) that allows for costs of child care to 79
 be shared equally by participating employees, employers, and 80
 DCY. 81

Authorizes a participating employer to select one or more 82
 of its employees to participate in the program. 83

Requires each participating employee to choose a child 84
 care provider for the employee's child, but specifies that the 85
 chosen provider must hold a license issued by JFS or be 86
 certified by a county department of job and family services. 87

Appropriates \$10,000,000 in FY 2026 in GRF ALI 830414, 88
 Child Care Cred Program. Requires the funds to be used for the 89
 Child Care Cred Program. 90