

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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SENATE BILL DRS35350-LUa-165A

Short Title: Young Families Investment Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Smith, Batch, and Garrett (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
3 ASSOCIATE APPRENTICESHIP PILOT PROGRAM AND TO REDUCE PARENT  
4 COPAYMENTS FOR SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
7 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division), the  
8 sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025  
9 fiscal year to establish a two-year child development associate apprenticeship pilot program. The  
10 Division shall establish the pilot program to assist in the shortage of qualified early childhood  
11 educators across the State by providing participants in the pilot with (i) on-the-job learning and  
12 coursework aligned with the knowledge and competencies required to be fully proficient  
13 employees, (ii) specialized training with a one-on-one mentor, and (iii) classroom-based, related  
14 technical instruction that may result in college credit. The Division shall implement the pilot  
15 program in at least two child development centers, one of which shall be located in the Piedmont  
16 region of the State and one of which shall be located in the Eastern region of the State, with the  
17 intent to establish best practices that can be modeled statewide. In developing the pilot program,  
18 the Division shall consider coordinating with the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.,  
19 to implement the pilot program. The Division shall submit progress reports to the Joint  
20 Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by December 31 of each year  
21 the pilot program is in effect, with a final report by December 31, 2026, on the outcomes of  
22 educators participating in the pilot program.

23 **SECTION 2.** Section 9D.3(b) of S.L. 2023-134 reads as rewritten:

24 "**SECTION 9D.3.(b)** Fees for families who are required to share in the cost of care are  
25 established based on ~~ten percent (10%)~~ five percent (5%) of gross family income. When care is  
26 received at the blended rate, the copayment shall be eighty-three percent (83%) of the full-time  
27 copayment. Copayments for part-time care shall be seventy-five percent (75%) of the full-time  
28 copayment."

29 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2024.



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