|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| General Assembly |  | ***Raised Bill No.***  |
| ***February Session, 2020*** |  | LCO No. **358** |
|  |  |
| Referred to Committee on  |  |
| Introduced by: |  |
| (ED) |  |

***AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY IN THE CARE4KIDS PROGRAM TO PARENTS ENROLLED IN CERTAIN SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17b-749 of the 2020 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

(a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish and operate a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker who (1) is (A) working, **[**or**]** (B) attending high school, or (C) enrolled in (i) an advanced manufacturing certificate program, (ii) an educator preparation program approved by the State Board of Education or the appropriate governing body in the state in which the institution of higher education is located, (iii) an alternate route to certification program approved by the State Board of Education Office of Higher Education or the appropriate governing body in the state in which the alternate route to certification program is located, (iv) a program of instruction relating to early childhood education, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 10-16p, or (v) a nursing program offered at a public or independent institution of higher education in the state, or (2) receives cash assistance under the temporary family assistance program from the Department of Social Services and is participating in an education, training or other job preparation activity approved pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17b-688i or subsection (b) of section 17b-689d. Services available under the child care subsidy program shall include the provision of child care subsidies for children under the age of thirteen or children under the age of nineteen with special needs. The Office of Early Childhood shall open and maintain enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer such program within the existing budgetary resources available. The office shall issue a notice on the office's Internet web site any time the office closes the program to new applications, changes eligibility requirements, changes program benefits or makes any other change to the program's status or terms, except the office shall not be required to issue such notice when the office expands program eligibility. Any change in the office's acceptance of new applications, eligibility requirements, program benefits or any other change to the program's status or terms for which the office is required to give notice pursuant to this subsection, shall not be effective until thirty days after the office issues such notice.

|  |
| --- |
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |
| Section 1 | *July 1, 2020* | 17b-749(a) |

***Statement of Purpose:***

To expand eligibility in the Care4Kids program to parents who are enrolled in certain secondary education programs.

***[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]***