

Comparison of House and Senate Child Care Provisions

	H.531: House Proposal	H.542: Senate Proposal
Legislative Intent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the intent of the General Assembly that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VT strive to enhance capacity & affordability of the child care and early learning system and support retention, growth, and professional development of its workforce ○ Investments/initiatives in act compliment CCFAP redesign, which shall be monitored by the General Assembly 	[Not in Senate version]
Child Care Financial Assistance Program; Eligibility (33 V.S.A. § 3512)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Subdivision (a)(4)</u>: Allows families seeking employment up to 3 months participation in CCFAP (versus 1 month) • <u>Subdivision (a)(2)</u>: Indicates use of <i>current</i> federal poverty guidelines and specifies that if the guidelines decrease in a particular year, the Child Development Division (CDD) shall use the previous year's guidelines for the purpose of determining CCFAP eligibility and benefit amount • <u>Subdivision (a)(4)</u>: After 9/30/21, a regulated child care and early learning program shall not receive CCFAP funds in excess of the usual and customary rate for services at that particular program 	[Same]

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Child Care Financial Assistance Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In FY20, \$1.25m is appropriated from the General Fund to CDD to restore the CCFAP base and \$6.9m is appropriated from the General Fund for the purpose of adjusting the sliding fee scale and reimbursement rates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sliding Fee Scale: Families whose gross income is up 100% of current FPL receives 100% of the available benefit and families whose gross income is between 100-300% of current FPL receive between 99-10% of the available benefit, <i>scaling between the following set eligibility levels</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 95% of available benefit at 125% FPL; ▪ 75% of available benefit at 150% FPL; ▪ 50% of available benefit at 200% FPL; and ▪ 10 % of available benefit at 300% FPL. ○ Reimbursement Rates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preschool & School Age Children: Increase to 2015 market rates ▪ Infants and Toddlers: Maintain 2017 market rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In FY20, \$1.25m is appropriated from the General Fund to CDD to restore the CCFAP base and \$4.9m is appropriated from the General Fund for the purpose of adjusting the sliding fee scale and reimbursement rates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ [Same] ○ Reimbursement Rates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Preschool Age Children</i>: Increase to 2012 market rates ▪ <i>School Age Children</i>: Increase to 2010 market rates ▪ <i>Infants and Toddlers</i>: Maintain 2017 market rates
Reallocation of Early Child Care and Development Program Funds and Program Cessation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In FY20 and thereafter, funds proposed to be appropriated by CDD for Early Care and Child Development Grant Program (established in 2017 & 2018 budgets) shall be available to fund CCFAP • Grant Program shall cease operation on 6/30/19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Not in Senate version] • [Same]

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Infant and Toddler Child Care Provider Grants	[Not in the House version]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established infant and toddler child care provider grant to be administered by CDD to expand infant and toddler care capacity • Eligible child care providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regulated, privately-operated center-based child care program or family child care home in good standing; ○ Participate in CCFAP and maintain the enrollment of CCFAP supported children at a level of at least 30%; ○ Provide year-round, full-day child care services for infants and toddlers; ○ Participate in STARS. • CDD to provide grants as funds allow <i>[\$1.25m appropriated in Sec. B.318]</i>
Bright Futures Information System; Modernization Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In FY20, up to \$100,000 of the CCFAP appropriation may be used by CDD for the purpose of developing a modernization plan for the Bright Futures Information System • By 12/1/19, the Commissioner of DCF shall submit a report to the General Assembly providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A project plan and timeline; ○ A fiscal analysis of the plan; and ○ The project team tasked with overseeing the project's implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In FY20, up to \$100,000 of funds may be used <i>[does not specify from where]</i> by CDD for the purpose of developing a modernization plan for the Bright Futures Information System • [Same]
Bright Futures Information System; Modernization Plan Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Subsection (a)</u>: In FY20, \$1m is appropriated from the General Fund to CDD to begin implementation of the plan developed pursuant to Sec. 5 • <u>Subsection (b)</u>: Any unused funds appropriated pursuant to Sec. 3 shall be reserved to begin implementation of the plan developed pursuant to Sec. 5 	<p>[Not in Senate version]</p> <p><i>[\$1m one-time appropriated in Sec. B.1101(a)(12) without narrative; there is an additional \$200,000 appropriated in the base]</i></p>

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<p>Support for Child Care & Early Learning Workforce (33 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 5)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • § 3533: <i>Student Loan Repayment Assistance</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Subdivisions (a)(1)-(2)</u>: Establishes a student loan repayment assistance program within CDD for individuals who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work in a regulated, privately-operated center based child care program or family child care home for at least 30 hours/week for 48 weeks/year; ▪ Receive an annual salary of less than \$40,000; and ▪ Have acquired credits in early childhood development or which are directly related to working with children birth through age 8 years of age. ○ <u>Subdivision (a)(3)</u>: Program participation requires the filing of documentation with CDD indicating intent to work for one year. A participant may earn up to \$2,000 annually, which shall be distributed by CDD in two allotments: at least half after 6 months, and the balance after the 12th month of employment is completed. ○ <u>Subsection (b)</u>: CDD shall adopt policies, etc. to implement the program. Repayments are available on a first come, served basis until funds are depleted. ○ <u>Subsection (c)</u>: Individuals otherwise eligible for alternative loan forgiveness/repayment programs are not eligible to participate in this program. ○ <u>Subsection (d)</u>: Individuals cannot simultaneously participate in both this program and the scholarship program set forth in 33 V.S.A. § 3534. • § 3534: <i>Child Care and Early Learning Workforce Scholarship</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Subsection (a)</u>: Establishes a need-based scholarship for individuals employed by a regulated, privately-operated center-based child care program or family care home while acquiring credits in early childhood development or which are related directly to working with children birth through age 8. ○ <u>Subsection (b)</u>: CDD shall adopt policies, etc. to implement the program. 	<p>[Not in Senate version]</p>

	<p>Repayments are available on a first come, served basis until funds are depleted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Subsection (c)</u>: Individuals cannot simultaneously participate in both this program and the student loan repayment assistance program set forth in 33V.S.A. § 3533. 	
<p>Appropriations College Loan Repayment Assistance; Child Care and Early Learning Workforce Scholarship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Subdivision (a)(1)</u>: In FY20, \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to CDD for the student loan repayment assistance program in 33 V.S.A. § 3533. • <u>Subdivision (a)(2)</u>: In FY20, \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to CDD for the child care and early learning scholarship program established in 33 V.S.A. § 3534. • <u>Subsection (b)</u>: It is the intent of the General Assembly that appropriations that meet or exceed each of the amounts appropriated in FY20 for loan repayment assistance and scholarship be made in FY21-FY24. 	<p>[Not in Senate version]</p>

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Grant Incentivizing Child Care Profession (33 V.S.A. § 3516)	[Not in House Version]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established an incentives program that fosters an interest in the child care profession among students; it provides grants to fund a combination of opportunities for students employed in regulated, privately-operated center-based child care programs and family child care homes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scholarships; ○ Paid internships; and ○ Hiring or retention bonuses, or both. ○ CDD shall administer the program or contract for its administration. ○ Grants available on a first-come, first-serve basis. ○ An individual shall not simultaneously receive funds from VDOL to complete a paid internship in a regulated, privately-operated center-based child care program and family child care home where receiving funds pursuant to this section. <p><i>[\$300,000 appropriated one-time in Sec. B.1101(a)(13)(B)]</i></p>
Technical Center Curriculum	[Not in House version]	<i>[\$50,000 appropriated in Sec. B.1101(a)(13)(A)]</i>

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Report; Evaluation of Expenditures and Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 1/1/24, the Commissioner of DCF, in consultation with stakeholders, shall submit a report that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluates the effectiveness of the CCFAP appropriation, student loan repayment assistance, and scholarship; ○ Makes recommendations as to whether expenditures and programs in act should be continued, and if so, the appropriate funding & source; and ○ Evaluates how the expenditures and programs in act contribute to VT’s children and young people reaching their potential using an RBA assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Same] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluates the effectiveness of the CCFAP appropriation, infant and toddler child care provider grant, and grant incentivizing the child care profession
Educational and Experiential Variance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Subsection (a)</u>: Enables Commissioner of DCF to issue a variance from CDD educational and experiential rules for individuals operating or employed in a registered family child care home (i.e. family child care provider or family child care assistant) or as a director or teacher associate in a center-based program for ten years or more prior to 9/1/16 (when the new CDD rules took effect). To be eligible for a variance, the provider must work continuously in a regulated program with a full license in good standing and meet the educational and experiential requirements in place prior to the new rules taking effect. • <u>Subsection (b)</u>: Commissioner shall review any violation where an individual is under variance and may revoke the variance depending on the seriousness of the violation. • <u>Subsection (c)</u>: Any variance granted under this section shall be terminated on 7/1/24. 	[Same]
Reimburse- ment Rates; Providers of Children’s Integrated Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In FY20, \$309,714 is appropriated from General Fund to CIS for increasing reimbursement rates to providers 	<i>[Same amount appropriated, but without narrative]</i>
Effective Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 1, 2019 	[Same]