

H.171 HIGHLIGHTS

What's in Vermont's new child care bill?

This session, with the tri-partisan passage of H.171 (the child care bill), Vermont set the stage for true child care reform. This bill lays the foundation for the accessible, affordable, high-quality, equitable system our families and businesses need in the future. It also makes \$12.7 million in investments now to stabilize Vermont's early childhood education system.

The bill charts a course for the future system by:

- » **Describing goals** for the state that a family will spend no more than 10% of their annual income on child care and that Vermont's early childhood educators will be fairly compensated and well supported;
- » **Prioritizing stakeholder input** to ensure that voices of those most impacted are informing the state's work to administer the child care system and allocate federal COVID response funds for child care; and
- » **Engaging experts to analyze** Vermont's current system and identify a stable, long-term funding source for a transformed child care system.

In addition, the bill makes immediate investments in:

- » **Family Affordability:** \$5.5 million to continue the transformation of Vermont's Child Care Financial Assistance Program. This funding will expand eligibility to more families, reduce family co-pays, and increase reimbursements paid to child care programs.
- » **Workforce Stabilization:** \$2.5 million to stabilize and strengthen our early childhood education workforce through scholarships and a student loan repayment support program.
- » **Infrastructure Improvement:** \$4.5 million to upgrade the failing IT system used to administer Vermont's early childhood education system.
- » **Systems Analysis:** \$200,000 to conduct a child care 'Systems Analysis' to study and develop recommendations on how to strengthen and streamline governance, administration, and accountability structures and resources.

Thank you for your support of H.171. Because of your work, this bill takes a crucial step toward achieving the early childhood education system Vermonters need and deserve. We have an opportunity to take Vermont's child care system out of crisis and achieve real and lasting transformation. We look forward to the work to come to achieve the goals and vision outlined in H.171. When we're successful, **Vermont will truly be the best place to live, work, and play.**



"Generations from now, Vermonters will thank you for putting into motion a historic change to the way we support children and families."

Only by rethinking how we deliver early childhood education can we reverse our demographic trends, address our workforce challenges, meet our diversity and inclusion promises, and give our children the best possible start in life."

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