

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 648
 2 INTRODUCED BY A. BUCKLEY, T. WELCH, G. NIKOLAKAKOS, G. FRAZER, E. BUTTREY, G. OBLANDER,
 3 M. YAKAWICH, S. FITZPATRICK, D. SALOMON, B. BARKER, K. ABBOTT, J. KASSMIER, J. KARLEN, S.
 4 HOWELL
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6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE BEST BEGINNINGS CHILD CARE
 7 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; SETTING THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY LEVEL AT ~~200%~~ 150% OF THE
 8 FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL; REQUIRING A MONTHLY COPAYMENT FROM AN ELIGIBLE FAMILY;
 9 PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 52-2-713, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN
 10 EFFECTIVE DATE."
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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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14 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Best beginnings child care scholarship program.** There is a best
 15 beginnings child care scholarship program administered by the department. The program is established to
 16 provide scholarships to qualified low-income families whose child received care provided by a licensed child
 17 care provider or day-care facility.
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19 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Family income eligibility requirements.** In determining income
 20 eligibility for the best beginnings child care scholarship program, the department shall set a qualifying income
 21 threshold at no less than ~~200%~~ 150% of the federal poverty level for each family size.
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23 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Copayment requirements.** Each eligible family shall participate in the
 24 cost of child care by making a copayment. The department shall establish the following copayment amounts:

- 25 (1) for an eligible family with a qualifying income less than 100% of the federal poverty level, a
 26 copayment of \$10 for each eligible family for each month; and
- 27 (2) for an eligible family with a qualifying income of 100% of the federal poverty level or more, a
 28 copayment based on a sliding fee scale not to exceed 7% of an eligible family's monthly income.