

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.
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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%~~ 185% 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.

18
 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:

21 ~~(1)~~ (1) set a qualifying income threshold at no less than ~~200%~~ 185% of the federal poverty level for
 22 each family size; ~~and~~

23 ~~(2)~~ (2) set a maximum qualifying income level that is no higher than that allowed by the federal child
 24 care and development block grant.

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 26 ~~NEW SECTION. Section 3. Copayment requirements.~~ Each eligible family shall participate in the
 27 ~~cost of child care by making a copayment. The department shall establish the following copayment amounts:~~

28 ~~(1) for an eligible family with a qualifying income less than 100% of the federal poverty level, a~~

1 ~~copayment of \$10 for each eligible family for each month; and~~
2 ~~(2) — for an eligible family with a qualifying income of 100% of the federal poverty level or more, a~~
3 ~~copayment based on a sliding fee scale not to exceed 7% of an eligible family's monthly income.~~
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5 **Section 3.** Section 52-2-713, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"52-2-713. Payments for eligible children.** The department shall pay a rate ~~established by the~~
7 ~~department and appropriated by the legislature~~ based on a child's enrollment and set at the child's monthly
8 authorized amount to a day-care facility licensed or registered by the department for each child receiving day-
9 care service and certified eligible by the department to receive day-care services."
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11 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Appropriation. There is appropriated \$10 million from the general fund
12 to the department of public health and human services in each year of the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, for
13 the purposes of [sections 1 through ~~4~~ 3].
14

15 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 ~~through 3~~ and 2] are intended to
16 be codified as an integral part of Title 52, chapter 2, part 7, and the provisions of Title 52, chapter 2, part 7,
17 apply to [sections 1 ~~through 3~~ and 2].
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19 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.
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