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68th Legislature 2023 HB 648.1

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% OF THE FEDERAL
8	POVERTY LEVEL; REQUIRING A MONTHLY COPAYMENT FROM AN ELIGIBLE FAMILY; PROVIDING AN
9	APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 52-2-713, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."
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11	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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13	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Best beginnings child care scholarship program. There is a best
14	beginnings child care scholarship program administered by the department. The program is established to
15	provide scholarships to qualified low-income families whose child received care provided by a licensed child
16	care provider or day-care facility.
17	
18	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Family income eligibility requirements. In determining income
19	eligibility for the best beginnings child care scholarship program, the department shall set a qualifying income
20	threshold at no less than 200% of the federal poverty level for each family size.
21	
22	NEW SECTION. Section 3. Copayment requirements. Each eligible family shall participate in the
23	cost of child care by making a copayment. The department shall establish the following copayment amounts:
24	(1) for an eligible family with a qualifying income less than 100% of the federal poverty level, a
25	copayment of \$10 for each eligible family for each month; and
26	(2) for an eligible family with a qualifying income of 100% of the federal poverty level or more, a
27	copayment based on a sliding fee scale not to exceed 7% of an eligible family's monthly income.



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1	Section 4. Section 52-2-713, MCA, is amended to read:
2	"52-2-713. Payments for eligible children. The department shall pay a rate established by the
3	department and appropriated by the legislature based on a child's enrollment and set at the child's monthly
4	authorized amount to a day-care facility licensed or registered by the department for each child receiving day-
5	care service and certified eligible by the department to receive day-care services."
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7	NEW SECTION. Section 5. Appropriation. There is appropriated \$10 million from the general fund
8	to the department of public health and human services in each year of the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, for
9	the purposes of [sections 1 through 4].
10	
11	NEW SECTION. Section 6. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 3] are intended to be
12	codified as an integral part of Title 52, chapter 2, part 7, and the provisions of Title 52, chapter 2, part 7, apply
13	to [sections 1 through 3].
14	
15	NEW SECTION. Section 7. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.
16	- END -

