

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE BEST BEGINNINGS CHILD CARE
5 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; SETTING THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY LEVEL AT 185% OF THE FEDERAL
6 POVERTY LEVEL; REQUIRING A FAMILY COPAYMENT BASED ON A SLIDING FEE SCALE; AND
7 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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11 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Best beginnings child care scholarship program.** There is a best
12 beginnings child care scholarship program administered by the department. The program is established to
13 provide scholarships to qualified low-income families whose child received care provided by a licensed child
14 care provider or day-care facility.

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16 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Family income eligibility requirements.** A family may be eligible for a
17 best beginnings child care scholarship if their family income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level.
18 The department shall determine the amount of the child care scholarship based on the income-eligible child's
19 enrollment in child care. The family shall participate in the cost of the child care by making a copayment based
20 on a sliding-fee scale not to exceed 12% of the family's monthly income.

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22 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 and 2] are intended to be codified
23 as an integral part of Title 52, chapter 2, part 7, and the provisions of Title 52, chapter 2, part 7, apply to
24 [sections 1 and 2].

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26 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.

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