

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 456

2 INTRODUCED BY J. KARLEN, J. REAVIS, L. MUSZKIEWICZ, B. EDWARDS, J. ISALY, M. LEE, P. STRAND,
3 J. SECKINGER, B. CLOSE, P. ELVERUM, S. FYANT, J. WEBER, A. GRIFFITH, M. CUNNINGHAM, D. BAUM,
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6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXPANDING THE BEST BEGINNINGS CHILD CARE
7 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO CHILD-CARE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY A
8 LICENSED DAY-CARE CENTER OR REGISTERED FAMILY OR GROUP DAY-CARE HOME; PROVIDING
9 AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTIONS 52-2-714 AND 52-2-715, 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 **Section 1.** Section 52-2-714, MCA, is amended to read:

15 **"52-2-714. Best beginnings child care scholarship program.** There is a best beginnings child care
16 scholarship program administered by the department. The program is established to provide scholarships to
17 qualified low-income families and eligible child-care workers employed at a licensed day-care center or
18 registered family or group day-care home whose child received care provided by a licensed or registered ~~child~~
19 ~~care-child-care~~ provider or day-care facility."

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21 **Section 2.** Section 52-2-715, MCA, is amended to read:

22 **"52-2-715. Family income eligibility -- child-care worker eligibility -- requirements.** ~~(1) In-Except~~
23 ~~as provided in subsection (2), in determining income eligibility for qualified low-income families~~ for the best
24 beginnings child care scholarship program, the department shall:

25 ~~(4)(a)~~ set a qualifying income threshold at no less than 185% of the federal poverty level for each
26 family size; and

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

