

SB3202



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3202

Introduced 2/2/2026, by Sen. Lakesia Collins

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

325 ILCS 85/95-10

Amends the Smart Start Illinois Act. Expands eligibility under the Smart Start Child Care Workforce Compensation Program to Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

LRB104 18415 KTG 31857 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning children.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Smart Start Illinois Act is amended by
5 changing Section 95-10 as follows:

6 (325 ILCS 85/95-10)

7 Sec. 95-10. Smart Start Child Care Workforce Compensation
8 Program.

9 (a) The Department of Human Services shall create and
10 establish the Smart Start Child Care Workforce Compensation
11 Program. The purpose of the Smart Start Child Care Workforce
12 Compensation Program is to invest in early childhood education
13 and care service providers, including, but not limited to,
14 providers participating in the Child Care Assistance Program
15 or in a Head Start or Early Head Start Program; to expand the
16 supply of high-quality early childhood education and care; and
17 to create a strong and stable early childhood education and
18 care system with attractive wages, high-quality services, and
19 affordable costs.

20 (b) The purpose of the Smart Start Child Care Workforce
21 Compensation Program is to stabilize community-based early
22 childhood education and care service providers, raise the
23 wages of early childhood educators, and support quality

1 enhancements that can position service providers to
2 participate in other public funding streams, such as Preschool
3 for All, in order to further enhance and expand quality
4 service delivery.

5 (c) Subject to appropriation, the Department of Human
6 Services shall implement the Smart Start Child Care Workforce
7 Compensation Program for eligible licensed day care centers,
8 licensed day care homes, and licensed group day care homes by
9 October 1, 2024, or as soon as practicable, following
10 completion of a planning and transition year. ~~As By October 1,~~
11 ~~2025, or as~~ soon as practicable, and for each year thereafter,
12 subject to appropriation, the Department of Human Services
13 shall continue to operate the Smart Start Child Care Workforce
14 Compensation Program annually with all licensed day care
15 centers, licensed day care homes, ~~and~~ licensed group day care
16 homes, Head Start programs, and Early Head Start programs that
17 meet eligibility requirements. The Smart Start Child Care
18 Workforce Compensation Program shall operate separately from
19 and shall not supplant the Child Care Assistance Program as
20 provided for in Section 9A-11 of the Illinois Public Aid Code.

21 (d) The Department of Human Services shall adopt
22 administrative rules ~~by October 1, 2024~~ to facilitate
23 administration of the Smart Start Child Care Workforce
24 Compensation Program, including, but not limited to,
25 provisions for program eligibility, the application and
26 funding calculation process, eligible expenses, required wage

1 floors, and requirements for financial and personnel reporting
2 and monitoring requirements. Eligibility and funding
3 provisions shall be based on appropriation and a current model
4 of the cost to provide child care services by a licensed child
5 care center or licensed family child care home.

6 (Source: P.A. 103-8, eff. 6-7-23; 103-605, eff. 7-1-24.)