



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB3858

Introduced 2/17/2023, by Rep. Dave Vella

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/12-4.57 new

Amends the Administration Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that subject to funds appropriated for the specific purpose, to assist with child-related necessities such as diapers, the Department of Human Services may make additional monthly payments to applicants with children under the age of 3 who are otherwise eligible for and receiving benefits under the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program. Requires the Department to set the benefit amounts in rule in accordance with available funds appropriated for the purpose of the amendatory Act. Provides that the Department shall make reasonable efforts to ensure timely communication to families of the new subsidy at implementation and as the diaper subsidy eligibility changes. Effective September 1, 2023.

LRB103 27665 KTG 54042 b

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

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

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
5 adding Section 12-4.57 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/12-4.57 new)

7 Sec. 12-4.57. Diaper allowance; WIC recipients.

8 (a) Findings and intent.

9 (1) The General Assembly finds that diapers are a
10 necessity for every infant. Additionally, the majority of
11 early child care programs require an adequate supply of
12 diapers for child attendance, but, with the exception of
13 early head start, do not provide diapers to families in
14 need.

15 (2) The General Assembly further finds that families
16 unable to afford an adequate supply of diapers may provide
17 less frequent diaper changes to their child to maximize
18 their supply of diapers. The failure to provide adequate
19 diaper changes is associated with an increased rate of
20 diaper dermatitis and urinary tract infection. Further,
21 there are links between diaper need and increased
22 parenting stress. Children whose parents manifest high
23 levels of stress or depression are at greater risk of

1 social, emotional, and behavioral problems.

2 (3) Therefore, the General Assembly intends to reduce
3 parenting stress and increase parenting sense of
4 competency by directing the Department of Human Services
5 to provide a monthly diaper subsidy to families with
6 children under 3 years of age who are otherwise eligible
7 for benefits under the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC)
8 program, thereby improving parenting quality and overall
9 child outcomes.

10 (b) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific
11 purpose, to assist with child-related necessities such as
12 diapers, the Department of Human Services may make additional
13 monthly payments to applicants with children under the age of
14 3 who are otherwise eligible for and receiving benefits under
15 the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program.

16 The Department shall set the benefit amounts in rule in
17 accordance with available funds appropriated for this purpose.
18 The Department shall make reasonable efforts to ensure timely
19 communication to families of the new subsidy at implementation
20 and as the diaper subsidy eligibility changes.

21 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect
22 September 1, 2023.