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H.B. 145
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Lightbody and White

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SUMMARY

- Specifies that the Department of Job and Family Services cannot set the maximum amount of income a family may have for initial and continued eligibility for publicly funded child care at less than 200% of the federal poverty line.
- Increases the maximum income for transitional child care to 200% of the federal poverty line.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Child care assistance income eligibility

Initial and continuing eligibility

Current law requires the Director of Job and Family Services (JFS) to make rules specifying the maximum amount of income a family may have for initial and continued publicly funded child care eligibility. Currently, the maximum income established by rule may not exceed 300% of the federal poverty line. The bill maintains this upper limit and also requires that the maximum income be no lower than 200% of the federal poverty line.¹ Currently, families that do not receive cash assistance under Ohio Works First are eligible for publicly funded child care with incomes up to 130% of the federal poverty line.

Transitional benefits eligibility

The bill makes a corresponding change to eligibility for transitional child care benefits, which are available to some families for 12 months after they exit the Ohio Works First Program. Currently, to be eligible for transitional benefits, a family must need child care due to

¹ R.C. 5104.38(A).

employment and have an income at or below 150% of the federal poverty line. The bill increases the maximum income to 200% of the federal poverty line.²

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-23-21

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² R.C. 5104.34(A)(3).