

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2954

Ordered by the House March 23
Including House Amendments dated March 23

Sponsored by Representative WALTERS; Representatives ELMER, HIEB, NERON, NOSSE, SCHARF, SMITH G,
Senator GELSER BLOUIN (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Directs Department of Early Learning and Care to establish and adopt by rule child care assistance pilot program to provide assistance and support to long term care employees with child care needs.

Sunset program on January 2, 2026.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to support for the long term care workforce.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

(a) **"Long term care employee" means an employee or agent who provides direct care to residents at a long term care facility.**

(b) **"Long term care facility" means:**

(A) A long term care facility as defined in ORS 442.015.

(B) A residential care facility as defined in ORS 443.400, which includes:

(i) An assisted living facility; and

(ii) A facility that provides memory care for residents and that has obtained a memory care endorsement under ORS 443.886.

(2) Subject to available funding, the Department of Early Learning and Care shall, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, establish and adopt by rule a child care assistance pilot program to coordinate resources and supports to assist long term care employees in accessing affordable child care by providing financial assistance to help pay for the costs of child care.

(3) In establishing the pilot program, the Department of Early Learning and Care shall consider which geographic areas in this state have the greatest need for child care providers and child care facilities in relation to the number of long term care facilities in the area.

(4) At a minimum, the department's rules must:

(a) Establish an application process by which applicants may apply to the department for financial assistance;

(b) Provide a process for the department to review and consider applicant eligibility on a first-come, first-served basis;

(c) Establish eligibility criteria for approving or rejecting each application on the basis

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 of factors that may include, but need not be limited to, income threshold amounts; and

2 (d) Provide a process by which the department shall disburse to each eligible applicant
3 financial assistance in the form of monthly payments, not to exceed 12 months, to help cover
4 the costs of child care.

5 (5) In adopting rules for the pilot program, the department shall consult with relevant
6 stakeholders, including but not limited to representatives of long term care employees and
7 long term care facilities.

8 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Early Learning and Care shall prepare and submit a re-
9 port in the manner provided in ORS 192.245 on the implementation of the child care assist-
10 ance pilot program, and may include recommendations for legislation, to a committee or
11 interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to early learning and care on or be-
12 fore September 15, 2025.

13 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2026.
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