



SENATE BILL 114: Custodial Parent/Party Cooperate with Child Support

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:

Introduced by:

Analysis of: S.L. 2015-51

Date:

Prepared by: Janice Paul

Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: *S.L. 2015-51 requires the Division of Child Development and Early Education and the Division of Social Services in the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a plan to require a person with primary custody of a child receiving child care subsidy payments to cooperate with county child support services as a condition of receiving the subsidy payments. The Divisions are required to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division.*

This act became effective July 1, 2015.

[As introduced, this bill was identical to H120, as introduced by Rep. R. Turner.]

BACKGROUND:

The North Carolina Child Support Services Program is overseen by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Social Services (Division), and primarily administered by the counties. Federally required by Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, services include location of the non-custodial parent, collection and distribution of child support payments, and establishment, review and modification of child support orders.

The Child Care Subsidy Program provides financial assistance to parents for their child care needs. The child care subsidy is based on an assessment of need, income and family size. Counties receive a combination of federal and state funding from the DHHS's Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) for subsidized child care services.

Senate Bill 114 is a recommendation of the Child Support Subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee.

The Program Evaluation Division issued its final report to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee on July 16, 2014, entitled, "*Revising State Child Support Incentive System Could Promote Improved Performance of County Programs.*" The report can be found at the following link: <http://www.ncleg.net/PED/Reports/2014/ChildSupport.html>

BILL ANALYSIS:

Session Law 2015-51 requires DCDEE and the Division to develop a plan to require a custodial parent, or other relative or person with primary custody of the child, who is receiving child care subsidy payments to cooperate with county child support services programs as a condition of receiving child care subsidy payments.

In developing the plan, DCDEE and the Division are required to consider each of the following:



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- (1) The number of child care subsidy cases that would be referred to county child support services programs.
- (2) Whether there are any disparities between child support services programs administered directly by the county departments of social services versus programs administered by a vendor.
- (3) The access and exchange of information between county child support services programs/systems and child care subsidy services/systems and any differences that may create a conflict in coordination.
- (4) Any implementation issues related to IV-D child support cases versus non-IV-D child support cases.
- (5) Any impact on the families involved and the need to incorporate good cause exceptions for cooperation with county child support services programs.
- (6) Any costs to implement the plan.
- (7) The development of any forms needed to implement the plan.
- (8) Transition time needed to implement the plan and to coordinate any interface with current IT systems.
- (9) Any training needs and costs associated with training.
- (10) Other states that have implemented a similar plan.
- (11) Other programs of public assistance in this State requiring coordination with child support services programs.
- (12) The need to update any current policies or procedures related to child care subsidy payments and child support payments.
- (13) Any other issues DCDEE or the Division deem relevant.

The report on this required plan and any recommendations are due to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division no later than February 1, 2016.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act became effective July 1, 2015.

Amy Jo Johnson, former counsel to Senate Health Care, and Brad Krehely, counsel to Senate Judiciary I, contributed substantially to this summary.