

SENATE, No. 2491

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 5, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator PAUL A. SARLO

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Assemblyman CHRIS TULLY

District 38 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators O'Scanlon and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Increases maximum number of respite care service hours funded through DCF for certain families.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning respite care, and supplementing Title 30 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. The family of a child that is eligible to receive respite care
8 services for the child, which services are funded through the
9 Division of the Children’s System of Care in the Department of
10 Children and Families, shall be eligible to receive no more than 90
11 hours of respite care services, provided by either an agency-hired or
12 self-hired respite worker, over a 90-day period, through funding
13 provided by the department.

14 b. The Commissioner of Children and Families shall use
15 available State and federal funds to effectuate the provisions of
16 subsection a. of this section.

17 c. As used in this act:

18 “Agency-hired respite worker” means a respite care worker who
19 is recruited, trained, and employed by a qualified agency under
20 contract with the Department of Children and Families.

21 “Respite care” means the provision of temporary, short-term care
22 for, or the supervision of, an eligible child on behalf of the
23 caregiver, in emergencies or on an intermittent basis to relieve the
24 daily stresses and demands of caring for a child with a functional
25 impairment. Respite care may be provided hourly or daily, may be
26 provided by an agency-hired or self-hired respite worker or by a
27 volunteer, but may not exceed service and cost limitations as
28 determined by the Commissioner of Children and Families.

29 “Self-hired respite worker” means a respite care worker who is
30 recruited, trained, and paid directly by a family of a child that is
31 eligible for respite care services.

32

33 2. The Commissioner of Children and Families shall adopt rules
34 and regulations, in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure
35 Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as are necessary to
36 effectuate the provisions of this act.

37

38 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

39

40

41

STATEMENT

42

43 This bill increases the maximum number of respite care service
44 hours funded through the Department of Children and Families
45 (department) for certain families.

46 Under the bill, the family of a child that is eligible to receive
47 respite care services funded through the department, is to be eligible to
48 receive up to 90 hours of respite care services, provided by either an

S2491 SARLO, CORRADO

3

1 agency-hired or self-hired respite worker, over a 90-day period
2 through funding provided by the department.

3 The Commissioner of Children and Families (commissioner) is to
4 use available State and federal funds to effectuate the bill's provisions.

5 The bill defines "respite care" to mean the provision of temporary,
6 short-term care for, or the supervision of, an eligible child on behalf of
7 the caregiver, in emergencies or on an intermittent basis to relieve the
8 daily stresses and demands of caring for a child with a functional
9 impairment. Respite care may be provided hourly or daily, may be
10 provided by an agency-hired or self-hired respite worker or a
11 volunteer, but may not exceed service and cost limitations as
12 determined by the commissioner.

13 Under the bill, "agency-hired respite worker" means a respite care
14 worker who is recruited, trained, and employed by a qualified agency
15 under contract with the department; and "self-hired respite worker"
16 means a respite care worker who is recruited, trained, and paid directly
17 by a family of a child that is eligible for respite care services.