

Senate Bill 97

By: Senators Parent of the 42nd, Orrock of the 36th, Jones of the 10th, Anderson of the 43rd,
Tate of the 38th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-1A-64 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 functions and authority of lead agency and the Department of Early Care and Learning
3 regarding early care and learning, so as to expand child care subsidies from one year to two
4 years for parents in a job training or educational program; to provide for related matters; to
5 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 20-1A-64 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to functions and
9 authority of lead agency and the Department of Early Care and Learning regarding early care
10 and learning, is amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

11 "(a) The lead agency shall:

12 (1) Provide to the department, under contract, an amount not less than the minimum
13 percentage of the grant to the State of Georgia under the federal act, which must be
14 expended for activities that are designed to provide comprehensive consumer education
15 to parents and the public, activities that increase parental choice, and activities designed
16 to improve the quality, availability, and affordability of child care. In addition to this
17 minimum percentage, the lead agency shall also provide the amount of any additional
18 funds, which exist on October 1, 2004, or which may exist in the future, which are
19 required to be spent on activities relating to improving the quality of child care, including
20 care for school age children;

21 (2) In conjunction with the department, provide a mechanism for the planning and
22 coordination of child care programs at the state and local levels;

23 (3) Recommend to the department measures to improve the quality, availability, and
24 affordability of child care in this state;

- 25 (4) In conjunction with the department, inventory and monitor the disbursement and
26 make recommendations as to the coordination of the disbursement of all state and federal
27 funding streams that impact the supply, quality, and affordability of child care;
- 28 (5) In conjunction with the department, develop an annual Georgia child care plan which
29 includes all identified revenue sources and, at a minimum, the requirements indicated in
30 the federal act. The Georgia child care plan shall provide that a parent who is attending
31 a job training or educational program may receive child care assistance for up to 24
32 consecutive months. The lead agency and the department shall take any necessary steps,
33 including, but not limited to, submission of an amendment to the Georgia child care plan
34 to effectuate such change;
- 35 (6) Hold one or more public hearings, with state-wide publication of the notice of such
36 hearings 30 days before the date of each hearing, to provide the public with an
37 opportunity to comment on the provision of child care services under the annual Georgia
38 child care plan, as required by the federal act;
- 39 (7) Develop reports that meet, at a minimum, the reporting requirements of the federal
40 act;
- 41 (8) In conjunction with the department, recommend to the Governor and to the General
42 Assembly policies, legislation, and funding that will promote the work of the lead agency
43 and department and the realization of the Georgia child care plan to promote quality,
44 affordable, and accessible child care for Georgia's children; and
- 45 (9) Develop a plan for application and distribution, including any necessary requests for
46 proposals, in accordance with the Georgia child care plan, for federal block grant funds
47 available to Georgia under the federal act."

48 **SECTION 2.**

49 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.