

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB547

Chairperson: Senator Kathy Campbell

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: February 26, 2015

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 547 is intended to provide a locally-driven and family-centered approach to eliminating the achievement gap in Nebraska's youngest learners by encouraging partnerships between private child care providers and school districts. LB 547 accomplishes this by funding grants created by LB 489 (introduced this session by Senator Kate Sullivan and referred to the Education Committee).

LB 547 allocates federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds to the Early Childhood Education Endowment Cash Fund (commonly known as Sixpence) to support local early childhood partnerships that include licensed child care providers.

The CCDBG previously required states to spend a minimum of 4% of their federal CCDBG funds on efforts that improve the quality of licensed child care. However, CCDBG reauthorization in November 2014 took another step toward improving the quality of child care by raising the minimum 4% to 7% in FY15-16 and 16-17, to 8% in FY17-18 and 18-19, and 9% in FY19-20 and subsequent years. Also included in CCDBG reauthorization was a new requirement that states spend a minimum of 3% of their federal CCDBG funds to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers. LB 547 allocates the *increased* quality requirement (3% in FY15-16, 4% in FY17-18, and 5% in FY19-20) and the new 3% requirement for the improvement of infant/toddler care to the Early Childhood Education Endowment Cash Fund (Sixpence) for early childhood grants involving child care providers.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Kathy Campbell

