



153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL NOTE

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**BILL:** SENATE SUBSTITUTE NO. 1 FOR SENATE BILL NO. 278  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Paradee  
**DESCRIPTION:** AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 31 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.

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**Assumptions:**

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act updates eligibility for the Purchase of Care (POC) program administered by the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS or the Department). More specifically, it provides that if a child is eligible for POC assistance, the DHSS must authorize a summer childcare provider at any time after January 1 if authorization is necessary for enrollment. Further, it updates copayment criteria and makes other technical corrections to existing law.
3. The DHSS, Division of Social Services, projects that due to the requirement that the Department base co-payment determination on family income and the child's status as either full day or half day, that under the proposed co-payment determination required by this Act, that children in half day status will be assessed at 3.5% of family income as an annual co-payment for families earning above 150% to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This is estimated to cost an additional \$755,892 annually.

**Cost:**

**Fiscal Year 2027:** \$755,892  
**Fiscal Year 2028:** \$755,892  
**Fiscal Year 2029:** \$755,892

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