

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

S.F. No. 1367

(SENATE AUTHORS: HOUSLEY)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/18/2019	424	Introduction and first reading Referred to E-12 Finance and Policy
03/07/2019	654	Comm report: To pass and re-referred to Human Services Reform Finance and Policy
03/14/2019		Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to early childhood; modifying eligibility requirements for early learning

1.3 scholarships; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018, sections 13.461, by adding a

1.4 subdivision; 124D.165, subdivisions 2, 4, by adding a subdivision.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 13.461, is amended by adding a subdivision

1.7 to read:

1.8 Subd. 33. **Child care assistance program.** Data relating to child care assistance program

1.9 disqualification is governed by section 124D.165, subdivision 4a.

1.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2019.

1.11 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 124D.165, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.12 Subd. 2. **Family eligibility.** (a) For a family to receive an early learning scholarship,

1.13 parents or guardians must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1.14 (1) have an eligible child; ~~and~~

1.15 (2) have income equal to or less than 185 percent of federal poverty level income in the

1.16 current calendar year, or be able to document their child's current participation in the free

1.17 and reduced-price lunch program or Child and Adult Care Food Program, National School

1.18 Lunch Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 1751 and 1766; the Food Distribution

1.19 Program on Indian Reservations, Food and Nutrition Act, United States Code, title 7, sections

1.20 2011-2036; Head Start under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act

1.21 of 2007; Minnesota family investment program under chapter 256J; child care assistance

2.1 programs under chapter 119B; the supplemental nutrition assistance program; or placement
2.2 in foster care under section 260C.212; and

2.3 (3) must not currently be disqualified from the child care assistance program under
2.4 chapter 119B, as provided under section 256.98, subdivision 8, paragraph (b).

2.5 (b) An "eligible child" means a child who has not yet enrolled in kindergarten and is:

2.6 (1) at least three but not yet five years of age on September 1 of the current school year;

2.7 (2) a sibling from birth to age five of a child who has been awarded a scholarship under
2.8 this section provided the sibling attends the same program as long as funds are available;

2.9 (3) the child of a parent under age 21 who is pursuing a high school degree or a course
2.10 of study for a high school equivalency test; or

2.11 (4) homeless, in foster care, or in need of child protective services.

2.12 (c) A child who has received a scholarship under this section must continue to receive
2.13 a scholarship each year until that child is eligible for kindergarten under section 120A.20
2.14 and as long as funds are available.

2.15 (d) Early learning scholarships may not be counted as earned income for the purposes
2.16 of medical assistance under chapter 256B, MinnesotaCare under chapter 256L, Minnesota
2.17 family investment program under chapter 256J, child care assistance programs under chapter
2.18 119B, or Head Start under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of
2.19 2007.

2.20 (e) A child from an adjoining state whose family resides at a Minnesota address as
2.21 assigned by the United States Postal Service, who has received developmental screening
2.22 under sections 121A.16 to 121A.19, who intends to enroll in a Minnesota school district,
2.23 and whose family meets the criteria of paragraph (a) is eligible for an early learning
2.24 scholarship under this section.

2.25 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2019.

2.26 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 124D.165, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

2.27 Subd. 4. **Early childhood program eligibility.** (a) In order to be eligible to accept an
2.28 for early learning scholarship funds, a program must:

2.29 (1) participate in the quality rating and improvement system under section 124D.142;
2.30 and

3.1 (2) beginning July 1, 2020, have a three- or four-star rating in the quality rating and
3.2 improvement system.

3.3 (b) Any program accepting scholarships must use the revenue to supplement and not
3.4 supplant federal funding.

3.5 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), all Minnesota early learning foundation scholarship
3.6 program pilot sites are eligible to accept an early learning scholarship under this section.

3.7 (d) A program is not eligible for early learning scholarship funds if it is disqualified
3.8 from receiving payment for child care services from the child care assistance program under
3.9 chapter 119B, as provided under section 256.98, subdivision 8, paragraph (c).

3.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2019.

3.11 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 124D.165, is amended by adding a subdivision
3.12 to read:

3.13 Subd. 4a. **Data sharing.** The commissioner of human services may disseminate to the
3.14 commissioner of education data on child care assistance program disqualification for purposes
3.15 of determining family eligibility under subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clause (3), and program
3.16 eligibility under subdivision 4, paragraph (d). The commissioner of education may
3.17 disseminate the data to an early learning scholarship area administrator.

3.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2019.