

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. This Act may be referred to as the Off-Hours
5 Child Care Act.

6 Section 5. The Department of Human Services Act is amended
7 by adding Section 1-75 as follows:

8 (20 ILCS 1305/1-75 new)

9 Sec. 1-75. Off-Hours Child Care Program.

10 (a) Legislative intent. The General Assembly finds that:

11 (1) Finding child care can be a challenge for
12 firefighters, paramedics, police officers, nurses, and
13 other third shift workers across the State who often work
14 non-typical work hours. This can impact home life, school,
15 bedtime routines, job safety, and the mental health of
16 some of our most critical front line workers and their
17 families.

18 (2) There is a need for increased options for
19 off-hours child care in the State. A majority of the
20 State's child care facilities do not provide care outside
21 of normal work hours, with just 3,251 day care homes and
22 435 group day care homes that provide night care.

1 (3) Illinois has a vested interest in ensuring that
2 our first responders and working families can provide
3 their children with appropriate care during off hours to
4 improve the morale of existing first responders and to
5 improve recruitment into the future.

6 (b) As used in this Section, "first responders" means
7 emergency medical services personnel as defined in the
8 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act, firefighters,
9 law enforcement officers, and, as determined by the
10 Department, any other workers who, on account of their work
11 schedule, need child care outside of the hours when licensed
12 child care facilities typically operate.

13 (c) Subject to appropriation, the Department of Human
14 Services shall establish and administer an Off-Hours Child
15 Care Program to help first responders and other workers
16 identify and access off-hours, night, or sleep time child
17 care. Services funded under the program must address the child
18 care needs of first responders. Funding provided under the
19 program may also be used to cover any capital and operating
20 expenses related to the provision of off-hours, night, or
21 sleep time child care for first responders. Funding awarded
22 under this Section shall be funded through appropriations from
23 the Off-Hours Child Care Program Fund created under subsection
24 (d). The Department shall implement the program by July 1,
25 2023. The Department may adopt any rules necessary to
26 implement the program.

1 (d) The Off-Hours Child Care Program Fund is created as a
2 special fund in the State treasury. The Fund shall consist of
3 any moneys appropriated to the Department of Human Services
4 for the Off-Hours Child Care Program. Moneys in the Fund shall
5 be expended for the Off-Hours Child Care Program and for no
6 other purpose. All interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall
7 be deposited into the Fund.

8 Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
9 Section 5.970 as follows:

10 (30 ILCS 105/5.970 new)

11 Sec. 5.970. The Off-Hours Child Care Program Fund.

12 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
13 becoming law.