



Sen. Ram Villivalam

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10200SB0925sam001

LRB102 04773 KTG 25135 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 925

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 925 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Department of Human Services Act is
5 amended by adding Section 10-23 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 1305/10-23 new)

7 Sec. 10-23. Maria Whelan Early Childhood Workforce Support
8 Program.

9 (a) The Department of Human Services shall, subject to the
10 availability of funds, operate a Maria Whelan Early Childhood
11 Education Workforce Support program. The goal of the program
12 is to improve educational, developmental, and social or
13 emotional outcomes for all children in early childhood
14 programs by building and retaining a diverse, highly
15 qualified, and well compensated early childhood workforce.

16 (b) The program shall award a variety of financial

1 supports to eligible individuals in the early childhood
2 workforce as defined by rule. The financial supports shall be
3 designed to reduce the financial barriers the early childhood
4 workforce faces to increase their education and credential
5 attainment as well as to address the low wages of the early
6 childhood field. The available financial supports shall
7 include, but are not limited to, tuition payments,
8 scholarships, costs for books and fees, debt relief, fees for
9 entrance and licensure exams, bonus payments for completing a
10 degree or credential, and wage supplements aligned with
11 educational attainment.

12 (c) The Department shall, by rule, define the scope,
13 eligibility, application process, and operation of the
14 program. If funds are limited, the program may prioritize
15 awards that increase the diversity of the teacher pipeline,
16 reduce racial and linguistic disparities, and increase access
17 to care in geographic regions and age groups with the highest
18 need for qualified teachers. Individuals must provide to the
19 Department all relevant documentation to demonstrate
20 eligibility."