

AN ACT concerning child care.

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

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Helping Heroes Child Care Program Act.

Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

"Department" means the Department of Human Services.

"Deployed" means activated to serve in an active military operation or emergency.

"Program" means the Helping Heroes Child Care Program established under this Act.

Section 10. Program established.

(a) The Helping Heroes Child Care Program is established for the purpose of providing vouchers for child care to Illinois families who have one or more parents deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan by the armed services. The Department shall administer the program. The Department shall implement the program only if federal funding is made available for that purpose. Any such federal moneys received by the State shall be deposited into the Fund for Child Care for Deployed Military Personnel, which is created as a special fund in the State treasury. Moneys in the Fund shall be appropriated to the Department for the purpose of administering this Act.

(b) Any Illinois resident who (i) is serving in the active military, reserves, or National Guard, (ii) has been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan by the armed services, and (iii) meets the income eligibility criteria established by the Department by rule is eligible for a child care voucher under the program. A family that received child care assistance before the parent's deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan is eligible only for a voucher for the cost of any additional hours of child care

that are necessary by reason of that deployment. A family is not eligible for a child care voucher under the program if the family receives child care services from the United States military.

Section 15. Rules. The Department shall adopt rules to implement this Act.

Section 80. Repeal. This Act is repealed on July 1, 2010.

Section 90. The State Finance Act is amended by adding Section 5.640 as follows:

(30 ILCS 105/5.640 new)

Sec. 5.640. The Fund for Child Care for Deployed Military Personnel.

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