

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 457

2 INTRODUCED BY J. KARLEN, J. REAVIS, L. MUSZKIEWICZ, B. EDWARDS, J. ISALY, M. LEE, P. STRAND,  
3 J. SECKINGER, B. CLOSE, P. ELVERUM, S. FYANT, J. WEBER, A. GRIFFITH, M. CUNNINGHAM, D. BAUM,  
4 B. CARTER, J. COHENOUR, C. KEOGH, E. STAFMAN, D. JOY

5  
6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE FAMILY INCOME ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS  
7 FOR THE BEST BEGINNINGS CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; PROVIDING AN  
8 APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 52-2-715, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

9  
10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11  
12 **Section 1.** Section 52-2-715, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"52-2-715. Family income eligibility requirements.** In determining income eligibility for the best  
14 beginnings child care scholarship program, the department shall:

15 (1) set a qualifying income threshold at no less than ~~185% of the federal poverty level~~ 85% of the  
16 state median income for each family size; and

17 (2) set a maximum qualifying income level that is no higher than that allowed by the federal child  
18 care and development block grant."

19  
20 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated \$17 million from the general  
21 fund to the department of public health and human services for each year of the biennium beginning July 1,  
22 2025, for the purposes of the best beginnings child care scholarship program.

23 (2) The legislature intends that the appropriation in this section be considered part of the ongoing  
24 base for the next legislative session.

25  
26 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

27 - END -