

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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The Office of Higher Education (OHE) administers the child care grant program, which provides financial assistance to resident postsecondary students to reduce the costs of child care. H.F. 2257 makes two changes to the program's parameters.

1. To be eligible for the program under current law, a resident student must not have earned a degree at the level of the student's current course of study, and must have been enrolled full time at that level for at most eight semesters or the equivalent. The bill increases the eight semester limit to ten semesters for both undergraduate and graduate students.
2. Under current law, the maximum grant is \$2,800. The bill increases this number to \$3,000. This has the effect of increasing the award amounts for all grant recipients, as well as slightly increasing the number of students who would potentially be eligible for a grant.

Background: A student's child care grant amount depends on the income of the student and his or her spouse, and the size of the student's family. Students with family incomes below a threshold established by the OHE receive the maximum grant amount per child. Students with incomes above the threshold receive the maximum amount minus ten percent of their income above the threshold.