

Amendment No. 2 to HB2689

**Powell
Signature of Sponsor**

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2777

House Bill No. 2689*

by inserting the following new Section immediately preceding the effective date Section and renumbering the effective date Section accordingly:

SECTION __. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5, is amended by adding the following new section:

- (a) The department shall establish a program known as the "Child Care Providers for Frontline and Essential Workers Program."
- (b) The purposes of the program are to:
 - (1) Provide emergency funding and resources to child care providers that stay open to provide child care services for frontline and essential workers during a pandemic or state-declared state of emergency;
 - (2) Provide paid leave and hazard pay for child care workers who risk their own health to remain open;
 - (3) Eliminate all fees for essential workers to access child care services during the COVID-19 crisis;
 - (4) Provide emergency funding to save the child care sector from collapse and to prevent unemployment;
 - (5) Provide necessary funding to train child care workers on health and safety procedures;
 - (6) Provide families with virtual learning opportunities and mental health support;
 - (7) Assist child care providers with completing applications for small business loans and finding lenders; and

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(8) Protect and strengthen the infrastructure and quality of child care in this state.

(c) The department shall utilize available funds from the federal Child Care Development block grant to fund the program.