



## SB25-004 | REGULATING CHILD CARE CENTER FEES

**STATUS:** Introduced in the Colorado State Senate and assigned to the Business, Labor, & Technology committee. The next committee hearing is [scheduled for February 11, 2025](#).

**SPONSORS:** Rep. Jenny Willford (D), Rep. Lorena Garcia (D), Sen. Faith Winter (D), Sen. Janice Marchman (D)

**SUMMARY:** This bill makes several changes to the way child care centers manage their businesses:

- First, the bill limits the amount a licensed child care center, family child care home, or substitute placement agency may charge for a waitlist fee to \$25. Waitlist fees will be required to be separate from other fees.
- Application fees are also capped at \$25 per application and may only be used to cover the administrative costs of processing applications.
- Child care centers may charge a deposit fee to secure a child's position, but the deposit must be applied towards covering part of the first month of childcare costs.
- Child care centers will also be required to create and publish policies for establishing the fees charged.

**FISCAL NOTES:** This bill is not projected to have any fiscal impact. Workloads will increase for CDEC to process new complaints received or identified through periodic inspections.

**SUPPORT:** City of Pueblo, Colorado Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs, Colorado Children's Campaign, Local Progress, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, Stand for Children, Inc.

**OPPOSITION:** Colorado Association of Family Child Care, Executives Partnering to Invest in Children

## PROS

- Capping waitlist and application fees at \$25 would significantly reduce the financial burden for families seeking childcare placement.
- The bill will also give parents a clearer picture of all the costs associated with navigating the childcare selection process.
- The bill strikes a balance between allowing providers to cover the administrative cost of maintaining wait lists and processing applications and reducing additional barriers for families accessing child care.

## CONS

- This bill makes significant changes to how child care centers are currently operating and could particularly impact the work of family child care homes.
- Family child care centers and small childcare centers may be impacted by the reduced revenue from wait list and application fees