

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY FISCAL NOTE STATEMENT
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

MEASURE

2026 BR NUMBER 1724

SENATE BILL NUMBER 191 SCS 1

TITLE AN ACT relating to the Kentucky Kindergarten Readiness Performance-Based Child Care Incentive Pilot Program.

SPONSOR Senator Danny Carroll

FISCAL SUMMARY

STATE FISCAL IMPACT: YES NO UNCERTAIN

OTHER FISCAL STATEMENT(S) THAT MAY APPLY: ACTUARIAL ANALYSIS
 LOCAL MANDATE CORRECTIONS IMPACT HEALTH BENEFIT MANDATE STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH PLAN IMPACT

APPROPRIATION UNIT(S) IMPACTED: University of Kentucky

FUND(S) IMPACTED: GENERAL ROAD FEDERAL RESTRICTED _____

FISCAL ESTIMATES	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	ANNUAL IMPACT AT FULL IMPLEMENTATION
REVENUES				
EXPENDITURES		\$200,000	\$300,000	\$400,000
NET EFFECT		(\$200,000)	(\$300,000)	(\$400,000)

() indicates a decrease/negative

PURPOSE OF MEASURE: SB 191 establishes the Kentucky Kindergarten Readiness Performance-Based Child Care Incentive Pilot Program to be administered by the University of Kentucky from January 1, 2027, until July 31, 2029. The legislation creates a framework to reward early childhood education providers, child-care centers, and low-income parents with a one-time \$2,000 incentive for each child assessed as kindergarten ready. The university is tasked with developing the assessment process, ensuring the pilot program represents geographic diversity, creating resources for parents, and reporting the outcome to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Legislative Research Commission by October 1, 2029.

FISCAL EXPLANATION: The pilot program is expected to cost roughly \$1 million over the full duration of the program. This amount would cover staffing and resources for program development, implementation, evaluation, and final reporting, as well as incentive payments to eligible providers and parents. Because the program will span four fiscal years, costs will vary by year, with the highest expenses expected in fiscal year 2028-2029 as more awards are issued.

DATA SOURCE(S): LRC Staff, University of Kentucky

PREPARER: Justin Smith **NOTE NUMBER:** 82 **REVIEW:** JMR **DATE:** 3/3/2026