

HB 3068 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Family Supports

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Meeting Dates: 4/11, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Human Services to conduct statewide study regarding family supports no later than July 1, 2018.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Evolution of the early learning field since the law was written
- Parents and guardians want access to a range of services in addition to child care referrals
- Methods for delivering professional development to child care providers
- Flexibility for Early Learning Division to implement a broader system of resource and referrals
- Ability for Office of Child Care to implement provisions in contract rather than in rule

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Amendment: Replaces measure. Creates resource and referral system as a statewide network of entities (entities) funded by the state. Authorizes Office of Child Care to implement the resource and referral system. Requires resource and referral entities to provide services such as training and technical assistance for child care providers, referrals for parents or guardian seeking services, and recruitment of qualified individuals. Requires resource and referral entities to match funds at or above 10 percent of public funds received. Permits Office of Child Care to implement federal requirements and to award grants.

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, but no statement issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

Resource and referral agencies, under the Office of Child Care, are responsible for providing information on child care providers to parents, providing technical assistance to existing and potential child care providers, and coordinating community resources. Examples of services include, helping parents to locate available child care during nontraditional work hours or explaining to providers of child care services how to license a child care center. The referral process must have 20 hours per week of telephone operation, including nontraditional hours and be in a convenient office space.

The early learning workforce has high turnover and low retention rates, which creates instability for children. Participation by child care providers in professional development is associated with higher retention and lower turnover, but there are barriers such as cost and time which makes pathways to certificates and degrees difficult. Child care resource and referral agencies are increasingly focusing on professional development for the early learning workforce. The Early Learning Division has contracted with 211info to provide centralized child care referrals, which provides callers with opportunity to obtain information on additional community resources.