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Measure Description:

Requires that Office of Child Care complete criminal records checks and child abuse and neglect records check in accordance with rules adopted by Early Learning Council upon receipt of application for enrollment in Central Background Registry.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, Early Learning Council, Department of Human Services (DHS)

Analysis:

The bill allows the Office of Child Care (OCC) within the Department of Education (ODE) to maintain information in a Central Background Registry (registry) through electronic records system. The OCC may also complete foster care certification checks and adult protective services checks. The OCC may enroll an individual in the registry if the Department of Human Services (DHS) has completed a background check and it has been approved. Operators or employees of early learning programs are required to apply for enrollment in the registry. Information provided to a private agency or organization about the enrollment status of persons in the registry is subject to a cost recovery agreement and any moneys collected must be deposited into the Child Care Fund.

This bill corresponds to a portion of Policy Option Package (POP) 202 in the ODE budget (SB 5516), which includes expenditure limitation for the following: \$4.1 million Federal Funds by reducing the amount of the Child Care Development Block Grant funding the state receives that is directed to the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program, \$2.9 million Other Funds revenue associated with a cost recovery agreement which is permitted under Section 1 (11) (c). A total of three of the positions (3.00 FTE) costs are directly attributable to this legislation; one Administrative Specialist to perform background checks and two Compliance Specialists for preparing materials for contested cases, revoking facility licenses, communicating with law enforcement and child welfare, and supporting legal and policy changes. The ODE budget bill will include these positions and related costs.