

HB 2260 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Family Supports

Action Date: 03/21/17

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Bynum, Hack, Hayden, Huffman, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Malstrom, Piluso, Smith DB

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Codifies the federal name and date. Directs Office of Child Care (OCC) to maintain a website on certified and registered child care facilities and regulated subsidy facilities. Requires Early Learning Council, in consultation with OCC, to adopt rules to implement website. Authorizes OCC to maintain information about child care facilities and providers through electronic records system. Permits OCC to share information on investigations or inspections with other public entities when it supports the health or safety of children. Clarifies complaints, not limited to serious complaints, may be received and investigated by OCC. Prohibits disclosing identifying information about an individual or entity that made the complaint. Requires Early Learning Council to adopt rules defining serious complaint and regulated subsidy facility.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- New federal requirements for states to have information about child care facilities and provide website
- Authority to use electronic record system
- Need to maintain confidentiality of individuals who make complaints
- Ability to share information with child welfare system to protect children
- Site visits and posting complaints on website
- Process for assessing substantiated and unsubstantiated complaints

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Codifies federal name and date. Authorizes Office of Child Care (OCC) to maintain information about child care facilities and providers through electronic records system. Specifies that information sharing between OCC and other public entities refers to investigations or inspections. Removes ability to share identifying information about individual that makes complaint.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Childcare (OCC) is part of the Early Learning Division (ELD) in the Department of Education, aiming to provide safe, quality, affordable, and accessible child care. The OCC licenses roughly 1,000 certified child care centers, 350 certified family child care homes, and 4,000 registered family child care homes, as well as collects and publishes information on preschool and school-age recorded programs. All child care staff and any individual who may have unsupervised access to children (e.g., adults living in the home, volunteers, maintenance staff, office staff, and regular visitors) must enroll in the Central Background Registry (registry), administered by the OCC. Applicants to the registry undergo a background check to determine if they are permitted on the premises. The OCC conducts on-site assessments for all complaint allegations. The public can search for facilities online to find complaint information for those actively licensed, in the process of becoming licensed or those found to be providing illegal child care. The ELD does not have authority to maintain confidentiality of individuals filing complaints or to share information with other public facilities when sharing information supports the health and safety of the child.

HB 2260 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

The federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), authorized by the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, provides resources for low-income parents to work or pursue education and training, improves the safety and quality of child care, and increases access to child care for all families. The ELD is the lead agency responsible for CCDF.

HB 2260-A allows the ELD to remain compliant with the federal reauthorization of CCDF in 2014. The CCDF rules require the public to have transparent, electronic access to information about child care programs with provider-specific information that shows the results of monitoring and inspections. States must have a website describing licensing and monitoring requirements and processes for background checks, including offenses that prevent individuals from becoming providers.