

HB 2027 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Office of Child Care (OCC) to consider any information it obtains that is relevant to enrollment in the Central Background Registry. Requires criminal records request to include records in the national sex offender registry maintained by the National Crime Information Center. Adds to definition of “exempt prohibited individual,” for purposes of five-year prohibition against providing child care, individuals whose certification, registration or enrollment in Central Background Registry has been suspended. Permits school district, political subdivision, or governmental agency to apply for child care facility certification. Establishes opportunity for hearing when OCC imposes condition on child care facility’s certification or registration. Permits OCC to take evidence, take depositions, compel appearance of witnesses, require answers to interrogatories, compel production of documents, issue subpoenas, and inspect premises when conducting investigation of child care facility and exempt child care provider.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Child Care (OCC) is part of the Early Learning Division (ELD) in the Department of Education. The OCC supports families through a statewide child care system that promotes safe, quality, and accessible child care. Regulatory staff in nine field offices are responsible for inspecting child care facilities, assessing and investigating complaints against facilities, and providing technical assistance to child care providers. The OCC licenses roughly 1,000 certified child care centers, 350 certified family child care homes, and 4,000 registered family child care homes. It also collects and publishes information on preschool and school-age recorded programs. In addition to licensing child care, OCC supports families seeking information on child care facilities and providers.

House Bill 2027 clarifies OCC’s duties and responsibilities in providing oversight of child care facilities and providers.