

HB 2027 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows the Office of Child Care (OCC), by rule, to consider any information it obtains that is relevant to enrollment in the Central Background Registry (Registry). Specifies that OCC can 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 regulated subsidy facilities as defined by the Early Learning Council (Council). Adds to definition of “exempt prohibited individual,” for purposes of five-year prohibition against providing child care, individuals whose certification, registration, or enrollment in 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. Allows the Council, in consultation with Department of Human Services, to adopt rules to establish minimum health and safety standards for regulated subsidy facilities.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Child care facilities are entities providing child care to children and include day nurseries, nursery school, child care centers, certified or registered family child care homes, or similar entities operating under any name. Child care providers must be licensed, registered, or certified with the Office of Child Care (OCC) within the Early Learning Division (ELD) of the Department of Education. 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 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.

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