

SB 1591 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

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Meeting Dates: 2/8, 2/10, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Temporarily increases the number of children that may be cared for in certified family child care homes, from 16 to 20. Sunsets July 1, 2024. Effective July 1, 2022.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

Child care crisis prior to pandemic; exacerbation of provider shortages and child care deserts statewide

Taking any action possible to provide some measure of relief

National best practices standards that cap the number of children at 12; majority of states that follow the standard; concern about moving further away from the standard

Brainstorming a path forward; making exceptions for certain ages of older children who might need less care than younger children; using square footage available in the child care setting as a factor; developing a variety of factors to provide for exceptions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment dated 02/03/22] Changes the temporary maximum number of children that may be cared for in certified family homes to 18.

BACKGROUND:

Family child care homes are regulated by the Office of Child care and are currently defined as residential dwellings where up to 16 children may be cared for.

Senate Bill 1591 increases the number of children that may be cared for in a certified family child care home, from 16 to 20, until July 1, 2024.