

HB 2683 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 2/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that a child who has an open case in the child welfare system, notwithstanding family income or other eligibility criteria, is eligible to participate in the Employment Related Day Care Program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program provides subsidized access to child care for families with working parents. Eligibility is typically considered based on family income but may consider other factors such as whether parents are enrolled in school or the presence of a mental or medical health condition. The program is currently operated by the Department of Human Services (DHS) but will be turned over to the Department of Early Learning and Care on July 1, 2023.

The child welfare system encompasses the state's management of foster care, adoption services, residential treatment, shelter-care, and other services for children under age 18 and their families that are typically handled through DHS. A child for whom DHS has assumed responsibility or custody is considered to have an open case in the child welfare system.

House Bill 2683 expands access to ERDC for children who have an open case in the child welfare system without regard to income or other eligibility criteria.