

HB 2683 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Action Date: 04/03/23

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Rules.

Vote: 10-0-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Andersen, Cramer, Elmer, Hartman, Hieb, Nelson, Neron, Nguyen H, Reynolds, Scharf

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/1, 4/3

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:

- Barriers to expanding number of available resource families
- Current eligibility criteria for Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)
- Federal regulations for spending of Child Care and Development Fund moneys
- Number of additional children potentially served by expansion
- Matching and reimbursement rates for ERDC
- Eligibility when a child's case is closed

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.

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.