

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill makes changes to payment methods for child care assistance and requires the commissioner of children, families and learning to study, develop and implement a streamlined payment system.

- 1 Subsidy restriction.** Requires an annual evaluation of market practices of child care providers to establish policies for the payment of absent spaces. Current law requires the evaluation to be done every two years.
- 2 Provider rate bonus for accreditation.** Adds an additional accrediting organization for the purpose of paying accredited child care providers a bonus above the established rate.
- 3 Provider payments.** Requires counties to establish procedures to ensure the appropriate use of child care subsidy payments that are paid directly to the parents. Parents who receive a direct payment must provide the county with documentation that the payment was used for child care expenses.
- 4 Prepaid child care assistance.** Directs the commissioner of children, families and learning to develop and implement by July 1, 2000 a payment system that ensures full payment to providers and fiscal accountability in child care assistance. The commissioner must report to the legislature by January 15, 2000 on the feasibility of prepayment of child care assistance, standardized billing, streamlined approval and reauthorization, and the use of debit cards to pay for assistance.