HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill modifies the list of recognized accrediting organizations for which an accredited child care center may receive a rate differential under the child care assistance programs. Child care assistance programs subsidize the child care expenses of eligible low-income families. The Minnesota Department of Human Services administers two child care assistance programs: Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) child care assistance and Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) child care assistance. MFIP child care subsidizes the child care costs of families receiving cash assistance through MFIP and provides child care assistance for eligible families for the first 12 months after the family leaves MFIP cash assistance (transition year child care). BSF child care provides a child care subsidy to low-income working families who are not receiving cash assistance from MFIP.

The cost of child care varies throughout the state. It also varies by the age of the child and the type of child care provider - family- or center-based. Infant child care in a child care center in the Twin Cities area is the most expensive child care in Minnesota. DHS establishes a maximum rate for each type of care in each county of the state.

Child care providers who are accredited by certain national organizations or who meet specified educational requirements are eligible to receive a 15 percent rate differential above the maximum reimbursement rates established in the provider's county or multicounty region.

1 **Provider rate differential for accreditation.** Amends § 119B.13, subd. 3a. Modifies the provider rate differential for accreditation by listing criteria child care centers must meet in order to be eligible for the rate differential.