

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill establishes an exemption from Department of Human Services childcare center licensing, shifting regulatory oversight to the Department of Education and setting regulations that must be met for certain accredited Montessori early childhood programs.

Section

1 [124D.170] Montessori early childhood programs. Provides for accredited Montessori early childhood programs that meet certain requirements to be exempt from Department of Human Services (DHS) licensing, with oversight by the Department of Education as well as various regulations that would continue to apply.

Subd. 1. Programs. Sets requirements in order for a Montessori program to be exempt, including: internal Montessori accreditation, approval of a three-year plan, compliance with fire codes and various Department of Human Services health and safety rules (including special needs child care, emergency policies, health policies, food management, transportation requirements, and facility provisions), and performance of background checks.

Subd. 2. Approval process. Requires Department of Education approval for a program to operate using the DHS licensing exemption created in this section.

Subd. 3. Background checks. Establishes requirements on criminal background checks, which must be performed by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Subd. 4. Commissioner's right of access. Permits and sets requirements around

Section

Department of Education to access to facilities and documents.

- 2** **Exclusion from licensure.** Exempts certain accredited Montessori early childhood programs from the Department of Human Services licensing requirements for child care centers established in chapter 245A.