

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** As introduced

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**Subject:** Child care programs

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### Overview

In January 2016, the Select Committee on Affordable Child Care was created. The committee visited communities throughout Minnesota to listen to issues presented by child care providers and parents who use, or are in need of, child care services. This bill represents proposals to address needs expressed by providers and parents related to accessibility, licensing processes, training of providers and licensors, business development, and advocacy.

#### Section

- 1 Electronic application; information.** Creates § 245A.043. Instructs the commissioner to study the cost for development of a Web site for use by child care providers and prospective providers that would provide a single point of access for statutes and rules relevant to child care; a guide how to start a child care business; and completing and submitting electronic applications, child care assistance program registration, application for rating under Parent Aware, among other things.

Provides an effective date of July 1, 2017.
- 2 Notification to provider.** Creates § 245A.055. Paragraph (a) requires a county licensor who has conducted a licensing inspection to provide the licensee with written notification of potential licensing violations noted during the visit. The notification must be provided prior to the licensor's departure from the home.

Paragraph (b) clarifies that by issuing the required notification to the licensee, the licensor is not relieved from notifying the commissioner of the violation as required by statute or rule.

## Section

- 3 Training for county licensing staff on family child care and group family child care requirements; supervision.** Creates § 245A.55. Paragraph (a) establishes an eight-hour preservice training requirement for county licensors.
- Paragraph (b) requires the commissioner to increase training and oversight of county licensors. Requires the commissioner to conduct at least biennial reviews of county performance.
- Paragraph (c) instructs the commissioner to provide notices annually to county licensors and their supervisors on new laws relating to family child care and group family child care that were enacted during the previous 12 months.
- 4 Child care provider liaison and advocate.** Requires the commissioner of human services to create a full-time position to act as a liaison and advocate for child care providers.
- Provides an immediate effective date.
- 5 Legislative task force on child care.**
- Subd. 1. Creation.** Creates a task force to evaluate issues related to affordability and accessibility of child care.
- Subd. 2. Membership.** Provides that the task force will be composed of eight legislators.
- Subd. 3. Duties.** Lists the issues that may be considered by the task force including, but not limited to: child care costs, accessibility, training requirements for providers, uniform training requirements for county licensors, and streamlining paperwork requirements.
- Subd. 4. Recommendations and report.** Requires the task force to issue a report to the legislature and governor by December 31, 2016.
- Effective date.** Provides an immediate effective date and a sunset date of December 31, 2016.
- 6 Child care business development; appropriation.** Paragraph (a) appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2017 from the general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development for grants to local communities so that the communities can increase the number of child care providers. Provides allowable uses for the grant funds. Requires the commissioner to give priority to greater Minnesota communities with a shortage of child care providers.
- Paragraph (b) requires grantees to report program outcomes to the commissioner by September 30, 2017.
- Paragraph (c) requires the commissioner to report outcomes to the legislature by January 1, 2018.

**Section**

- 7**      **Child care business start-up manual; appropriation.** Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2017 to the commissioner of employment and economic development to produce a manual to instruct prospective child care provider how to start a business. Requires the manual to be available electronically. Provides that this is a onetime appropriation that is available until June 30, 2019.