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Overview

This bill makes changes to provisions relating to child care staff variances, infant sleep practices, child care license holder insurance requirements, and licensing investigations. The bill also requires the Commissioner of Human Services to take steps related to child care licensing reform.

Section

- 1 **Variations.** Amends § 245A.04, subd. 9. Requires the commissioner to consider variances for child care center staff qualifications that do not affect health and safety.
- 2 **Specialized infant and toddler family child care.** Amends § 245A.14 by adding subd. 4a. Allows specified licensed group family day care programs to operate as specified family day care programs on days when only one caregiver is present.
- 3 **Reduction of risk of sudden unexpected infant death in licensed programs.** Amends § 245A.1435, paragraph (d). Clarifies provisions related to infant swaddling sleep practices; allows for the use of an infant sleep system that is not under a recall or warning from the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission. Directs the commissioner to post photographs of acceptable sleep systems on the DHS website. Prohibits the use of any swaddling sleep system once an infant can roll over.
- 4 **Child care license holder insurance.** Amends § 245A.152. Modifies the circumstances under which a child care license holder must provide written notice to parents for insurance changes. Specifies that if a license holder has an automatically-renewing policy, including the annual renewal date in the initial parental notice is sufficient and valid until the insurance coverage changes or the policy lapses.

Section

- 5** **Investigations.** Amends § 245A.16, subd. 2. (b) Requires the commissioner of human services to provide clear and specific reasons if the commissioner’s determination differs from the county’s recommendation after an investigation that results in evidence that the commissioner should deny an application or pursue a negative licensing action.
- (c) Requires that if a county investigation does not result in evidence that the commissioner should deny an application or pursue a negative licensing action, and the commissioner’s determination differs from that conclusion, the commissioner must provide clear and specific reasons for the differences.
- Makes this section effective the day following final enactment.
- 6** **Direction to commissioner; child care licensing reform.** Directs the commissioner to review best practices, research, and administrative data related to child care licensing and technical assistance, to establish and implement a stakeholder engagement process for potential regulatory reforms, and to deliver a report to the legislature.