

Subject Child care assistance; child care advisory working group

Authors Pryor

Analyst Danyell Punelli
Sarah Sunderman

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Overview

This bill modifies certain child care assistance program (CCAP) provisions, establishes a child care advisory working group, and directs the commissioner of human services to complete activities related to child care licensing.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Supervision of counties and providers.</p> <p>Amends § 119B.02, subd. 3. Requires the commissioner to provide technical assistance and training to support child care providers to ensure proper billing and attendance records are submitted for reimbursement under CCAP.</p>
2	<p>Child care capacity and attendance.</p> <p>Amends § 119B.02, by adding subd. 8. By January 1, 2020, requires the commissioner to develop an electronic system for counties and providers to use to track the child care provider's CCAP authorizations to ensure that attendance reported for billing purposes under CCAP does not exceed authorized care capacity.</p>
3	<p>Information to applicants; child care fraud.</p> <p>Amends § 119B.025, by adding subd. 5. At the time of initial application and at redetermination for CCAP, requires the county to provide written notice to the applicant or participant listing the activities that constitute child care fraud and the consequences of committing child care fraud. Requires an applicant or participant to acknowledge receipt of the child care fraud notice in writing.</p>
4	<p>Child care advisory working group. Proposes coding for § 245A.154.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Establishment; membership. Establishes a working group to advise DHS on child care licensing policy, consisting of 19 members. Specifies membership qualifications; requires the appointing authorities ensure that the working group membership reflects the diversity of families participating in CCAP.</p>

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Subd. 2. Duties. Specifies that the working group must consult with stakeholders and the public to:

- 1) make recommendations on improving child care licensing processes;
- 2) assess costs of licensing standards and proposed changes, and CCAP rate adequacy;
- 3) clarify child care employee qualifications;
- 4) conduct a survey of licensed child care providers about licensing requirements;
- 5) identify licensing requirements that have led to child care program closures and recommend business development and technical assistance resources; and
- 6) consider creating separate licensing requirements for child care programs in rural Minnesota.

Subd. 3. Meetings. Specifies that the first working group meeting must be no later than August 1, 2019, and specifies that meetings are open to the public and subject to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law.

Subd. 4. Compensation. Specifies compensation for working group members.

Subd. 5. Administrative support. Requires DHS to provide meeting space and administrative support.

Subd. 6. Report. Requires the working group to provide recommendations and proposed legislation to the legislature by February 1, 2020.

Makes this section effective the day following final enactment.

5 **Direction to commissioner.**

Paragraph (a) directs the commissioner of human services to:

- 1) develop equity and implicit bias training for child care licensors and require completion of the training within specified timelines;
- 2) actively recruit licensors to more accurately reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of families participating in CCAP;
- 3) create a process for child care providers to submit complaints about a licensor;
- 4) hire an equity coordinator in the Office of Inspector General; and
- 5) reorganize DHS to remove licensing functions from the Office of Inspector General.

Paragraph (b) requires the commissioner to report to the legislature on these activities by January 1, 2020.



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