

Subject Allowing DHS to reinstate certain child care waivers and modifications

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Overview

This bill allows the commissioner of human services to temporarily reinstate COVID-19 program waivers and modifications related to child care. The commissioner may reinstate child care assistance program (CCAP) waivers that allow a CCAP agency to pay child care providers when the provider is closed due to COVID-19 concerns, and the commissioner may suspend staff distribution requirements for licensed child care centers.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p>Reinstatement and extension of COVID-19 program waivers and modifications to the child care assistance program.</p> <p>Paragraph (a) allows the commissioner of human services to reinstate waivers and modifications to the child care assistance program. Specifies that a waiver to allow a CCAP agency to pay child care assistance to a child care provider may be reinstated when (1) children are not attending child care because the provider has temporarily closed due to COVID-19 concerns; and (2) a provider chooses not to charge or reduces fees for privately paying families because of closed or absent days related to COVID-19. Reinstated waivers and modifications remain in effect until June 26, 2022.</p> <p>Paragraph (b) limits CCAP payments during closures related to COVID-19 to up to eight weeks total per child care provider. Requires child care providers to report any closure to DHS CCAP staff prior to submitting child care assistance bills for closed dates to a CCAP agency for payment.</p> <p>Makes this section effective retroactively from November 1, 2021.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Temporary modifications of child care center staff; distribution requirements.</p> <p>Paragraph (a) allows the commissioner of human services to temporarily suspend certain staff distribution requirements for licensed child care centers until June 30, 2022.</p> |

Section	Description
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Paragraph (b) requires a licensed child care center to have at least one person qualified as a teacher on site at all times when a child is in care and requires a staff person who is at least 18 years of age to be with each group of children, except during arrival and departure times as allowed under Minnesota Rules.

Paragraph (c) requires a licensed child care center to have a staff person on site who is responsible for overseeing the operation of the daily activities of the program, ensuring the health and safety of the children, and supervising staff. Specifies the on-site staff person is not required to meet the qualifications of a director.

Provides an immediate effective date.



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