

Subject Child care licensing requirements and practices

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Overview

This bill, as amended by H2617DE1, makes changes to current child care licensing requirements and practices and directs the commissioner of children, youth, and families to propose new regulations for child care programs.

Summary

Section Description

- 1 **Reconsideration of correction orders.**

Amends § 142B.16, subd. 2. Gives an applicant for or license holder of a child care program the option to ask the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) for interpretive guidance on a rule or statute underlying a correction order issued to them prior to requesting a reconsideration of the order.
- 2 **Office of Early Care and Education Program Support and Accountability.**

Subd. 1. Establishment. Directs the commissioner of children, youth, and families to establish the office within DCYF.

Subd. 2. Definitions. Defines “accreditation” “office” and “peer coach” for use in the section.

Subd. 3. Licensing regulations. Directs the office, in consultation with stakeholders, to develop child care licensing regulations that focus on basic physical health and safety of children. Provides that the office must submit legislation that codifies the regulations to the legislature by January 15, 2026.

Subd. 4. Early care and education program designation. Directs the office, in consultation with stakeholders, to create an early care and education program designation for child care providers. Provides that the office must submit legislation that codifies the designation to the legislature by January 15, 2026.

Section Description

Subd. 5. Transitional designation. Directs the office to create a temporary designation for child care programs that are licensed but have not yet received the early care and education program designation.

Subd. 6. Industry-recognized professional associations. Directs the office to develop a process for determining a list of professional associations that provide early care and education program accreditation. Specifies requirements for an association to be included on the list.

Subd. 7. Evaluation and continuous improvement. Directs the office to establish an evaluation and continuous improvement process that includes: (1) monitoring and evaluating outcomes for children and their families; and (2) periodic audits that assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the support and accountability system required to be developed under this section.

Subd. 8. Support and accountability system. Directs the office to develop a system for ensuring support and accountability for child care providers. Provides that the system must include support teams and specifies requirements for the teams.

Subd. 9. Resources and support. Directs the office to provide specified resources and supports for parents and caregivers.

Subd. 10. Additional supports. Directs the office to make additional supports available, as needed, to ensure that child care programs are compliant with this section.

Subd. 11. Guidance. Directs the office to develop guidance on the rules and regulations governing child care providers and the consequences for violating the rules or regulations. Provides that the guidance must be regularly communicated to support teams and from support teams to child care providers.

3 Direction to commissioner of children, youth, and families; amending the definition of education.

Directs the commissioner to amend Minnesota Rules to modify the definition of “education” for purposes of determining an individual’s qualifications to work in a licensed child care center. Provides that “education” includes any accredited coursework from an accredited postsecondary institution that can be reasonably shown to be relevant for caring for and educating children.

Makes the section effective immediately.

Section	Description
4	<p>Direction to commissioner of human services; background study liaison.</p> <p>Directs the commissioner to designate, by August 1, 2025, a permanent child care background study liaison within the background studies division of the department to assist child care programs with the background study process.</p> <p>Makes the section effective immediately.</p>
5	<p>Direction to commissioner of children, youth, and families; standardized licensing visit timeline and requirements.</p> <p>Directs the commissioner, in consultation with stakeholders, to develop and implement a standardized timeline and standards for the conduct of licensors when conducting inspections of licensed child care centers. Provides that the timeline and standards must be implemented by January 1, 2026.</p> <p>Makes the section effective immediately.</p>
6	<p>Direction to commissioner of children, youth, and families; standardized county-delegated licensing.</p> <p>Directs the commissioner to develop, by January 1, 2026, systems and practices that family child care county licensors must use.</p> <p>Makes the section effective immediately.</p>
7	<p>Direction to the commissioner of children, youth, and families; child care provider support website.</p> <p>Directs the commissioner to maintain a single, comprehensive website that provides information for child care providers, including information about the supports available to providers.</p> <p>Makes the section effective immediately.</p>



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