

CCS SCS HCS HB 1831 -- CHILD CARE FACILITIES

This bill changes the laws regarding the rules and requirements of the Department of Social Services for child-care providers who receive state or federal funds for providing fee assistance for these services. The department must:

(1) Establish publicly available website access to provider-specific information about any health and safety licensing or regulatory requirements for the providers including dates of inspections, history of violations, and compliance actions taken as well as specified consumer education information;

(2) Establish or designate a hotline for parents to submit complaints about child-care providers;

(3) Establish minimum requirements for building and physical premises. A child-care provider must meet the minimum requirements prior to receiving federal assistance;

(4) Establish necessary and reasonable rules and regulations to define pre-service training requirements for child care providers pursuant to applicable federal laws and regulations;

(5) Establish procedures for conducting unscheduled on-site monitoring of a child-care provider prior to receiving state or federal funds for providing child care services either by direct payment or through reimbursement to a child care beneficiary and annually thereafter;

(6) Require providers who receive assistance under applicable federal regulations and statutes to report any serious injuries or the death of children occurring in child care to the department; and

(7) Establish a transparent system of quality indicators appropriate to the provider setting that provides parents with a way to differentiate between child care providers available in their communities as required by federal rules. The system must describe the standards used to assess the quality of providers and indicate whether the provider meets the state's registration or licensing standards, is in compliance with applicable health and safety requirements, and the nature of any violations related to registration or licensing requirements. The system must indicate if the provider utilizes curricula and if the provider is in compliance with staff educational requirements.

These provisions must not be construed as authorizing the operation, establishment, maintenance, or mandating or offering of

incentives to participate in a quality rating system under Section 161.216, RSMo.

The bill specifies that children who are related to the member responsible for the daily operation of an in-home licensed child care facility organized as a business entity in this state and who meet the requirements of the child care provider must qualify for the exemption for related children. If more than one member of the business entity is responsible for the daily operation of the facility, the exemption can only be granted for children who are related to one of the members.

The bill requires each in-home child care facility to disclose its licensure status and provide a written explanation of the facility's disciplinary philosophy and policies to the parents or guardians enrolling children in the facility.

The provisions of the bill regarding child-care providers receiving state or federal funds for providing fee assistance will become effective upon the Department of Health and Senior Services providing notice to the Revisor of Statutes that the implementation of federal regulations mandating the provisions has occurred.