

SB 49 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Distinguishes employment-related child care and facilities from child care and child care facilities generally, to capture more individuals in the Central Background Registry who are in contact with children in care. Requires rulemaking to deny receipt of employment-related child care subsidy unless specified individuals are all enrolled. Makes the preceding operative July 1, 2022, and also requires necessary information be transferred from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the Office of Child Care at the Early Learning Division (ELD) by the same date. Corrects internal statutory references.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment dated 2/15/21] Refines terms to same effect: replaces "employment-related" with "subsidized" throughout, and replaces reference to persons receiving subsidy, with care providers receiving reimbursement.

BACKGROUND:

Individuals who operate or provide child care at authorized facilities in the child care system, including contractors, employees and operators of pre-school programs, and others who may have contact with children in care, are required to apply and enroll in the Central Background Registry, which is maintained by the Office of Child Care (OCC) within the Early Learning Division (ELD).

The Department of Human Services (DHS) administers employment-related child care subsidy programs, and is responsible for adopting rules to operate said programs, in consultation with the ELD and the OCC. Rules are required by statute to address a number of program details, such as: receipt of subsidies for at least a year even if a recipient's job changes; mitigating the impact of reduced subsidies if a recipient's income increases; providing for recipients enrolled in coursework; and providing for self-employed recipients. There is currently no requirement for rulemaking to provide for the denial of an employment-related child care subsidy when persons at a facility are not enrolled in the Central Background Registry.

Senate Bill 49 captures more individuals in the Central Background Registry who are in contact with children in employment-related child care facilities, by denying the corresponding subsidy unless the specified individuals are enrolled, operative July 1, 2022. The measure also requires DHS to transfer necessary information to OCC and corrects some internal statutory references.