
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 152

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

SUMMARY

This bill makes the following changes to the laws related to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC). It:

1. eliminates the requirement that child care centers and homes that exclusively serve school-age children post a copy of an OEC-developed developmental milestones document in the center or home (§ 1);
2. adds children under the care of a caregiver who receives subsidies under the subsidized guardianship program to the Care 4 Kids protective service class (§ 2);
3. repeals the Care 4 Kids program regulations and instead requires the OEC commissioner to (a) administer the program by implementing the federal Child Care Development Fund program's regulations and (b) develop policies and procedures necessary to do so (§§ 3 & 4); and
4. requires child care centers to allow a child with an individualized family service plan who is eligible to receive Birth-to-Three services to receive these services on-site at a child care center or home (§ 5).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

§ 1 — OEC DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES DOCUMENT

Current law requires each operator of a child care center or group or family child care home to post a copy of an OEC-developed document

(1) listing key developmental milestones for children from birth to age five and (2) notifying parents or guardians concerned that their child has not met any developmental milestones that they may access the OEC Child Development Infoline for information on appropriate services.

Under the bill, beginning on July 1, 2024, centers that exclusively serve school-age children are no longer required to post a copy of this document.

§§ 2-4 — CARE 4 KIDS

Protective Service Class (§ 2)

The bill adds children under the care of a caregiver who receives subsidies through the Department of Children and Families's subsidized guardianship program to OEC's protective service class. These children then become eligible for Care 4 Kids regardless of the program's eligibility requirements.

By law, the OEC commissioner may institute a protective service class in which she may waive current law's Care 4 Kids eligibility requirements for certain at-risk populations, instead applying guidelines that she prescribes and the Office of Policy and Management reviews. Under current law, these at-risk populations include certain (1) foster care children, (2) newly adopted children, and (3) homeless children.

Regulations, Policies, and Procedures (§§ 3 & 4)

The bill repeals the Care 4 Kids program regulations, and instead requires the OEC commissioner to administer the program by implementing the requirements of the federal Child Care Development Fund, which funds the Care 4 Kids program (45 CFR 98). Under the bill, the OEC commissioner must develop policies and procedures necessary to implement these federal requirements.

§ 5 — BIRTH-TO-THREE SERVICES

The bill requires licensed child care centers and group or family child care homes to allow a child who is eligible for Birth-to-Three and who

has an individualized family service plan to receive early intervention services at the center or home designated in the plan.

By law and under the bill, individualized family service plans are written plans for providing early intervention services to an eligible child and the child's family. These services must, among other things, be (1) provided under public supervision, (2) selected in collaboration with the parents, and (3) designed to meet the infant's or toddler's developmental needs and the family's needs in certain areas (34 CFR § 303.13(a)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 45 Nay 0 (03/06/2024)