
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6840

AN ACT REQUIRING THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TO STUDY THE AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ADDRESS INFANT AND TODDLER CHILD CARE SERVICES NEEDS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to conduct an annual study of licensed and license-exempt child care services throughout the state. The study must include (1) the total number, and a breakdown by municipality and region, of child care centers, group child care homes, and family child care homes; (2) the total number of child care slots, including details on whether these slots are designated for certain age groups (infants, toddlers, and pre-school age children), filled, and subsidized; and (3) an analysis of child care supply and demand, including details on where there is unmet need on a municipal, regional, and state-wide level.

The bill also requires the OEC commissioner to create a plan, using information collected from this study, that addresses shortages in infant and toddler child care availability for low-income families. The plan must include approaches for (1) identifying low-income families in need of child care services, (2) increasing the availability and number of subsidized child care slots, and (3) ensuring that low-income families can access these slots.

Both the OEC study and the commissioner's plan must be submitted to the Appropriations and Children committees by January 1, 2026. The OEC study must be redone annually and submitted each year after.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 3 (02/18/2025)