

2025 Office of Inspector General Children's Policy Bill – HF 2191

This proposal contains four components related to licensing or regulation of programs that serve children:

- (1) Family and childcare licensing technical correction:** Section 142B.30, subd. 1, paragraph (e) needs to be updated to reflect that family child care programs will be on a continuous license, so county licensors will no longer issue two-year licenses for those programs.

The 2023 Legislature passed changes to licensing statute to align with establishing a continuous license process for family child care. Currently section 142B.30, subd. 1, paragraph (e) does not account for license types that operate on a continuous license structure. Beginning in calendar year 2025, family child care licenses will be issued for a calendar year and renewed. Child foster care will eventually move to a continuous license in the coming years, so we want to be cognizant of creating language that will allow this growth in the future, but still allow child foster care to operate on a two-year license cycle. This proposal clarifies that licenses may be issued for up to two years unless they are designated to be renewed each calendar year (the continuous license structure).

- (2) Certified child care centers policy modifications:** This provision requires certified child care centers to have a policy on behavior guidance and supervision; clarifies first aid and CPR training requirements for certified child care centers; and aligns current requirements on posting conditional licenses with conditional certification. This proposal ensures conditional certification information is posted in the facility, providing transparency for families.

- (3) Child passenger restrain systems training:** This provision aligns requirements in DHS statute to align with recent Department of Public Safety (DPS) child passenger restrain systems. The 2024 Legislature made changes to the child passenger restraint systems requirements in Minnesota Statutes section 169.685, requiring children up to age 9 years old to use a child passenger restraint.

This provision also aligns DHS statute to reflect updated DPS training requirements for child passenger restrain systems to remove barriers and increase access to training. With the changes, the emergency relative variance for the training is no longer needed. The variance available to relatives providing child foster care requires the relative to complete an in-person child seat safety check up by a DPS approved trainer, with the exact car seat the foster child will use and submit the completed variance form to their licensor. Under the new DPS training model, individuals may complete an online training from the National Child Passenger Safety Board and then complete an in-person competency check with a facilitator.

- **Licensed child care centers technical change:** Minnesota Statutes, chapter 245A.02, subdivision 2b defines “annual or annually” as prior to or within the same month of the subsequent calendar year. In order to provide consistency and clarity, in 2019, child care center statutory language related to trainings and other yearly requirements was changed from annual to calendar year. This proposal makes a corresponding change in 245A.41, subd. 3 (d), which was accidentally overlooked.
- **CCDF Federal Compliance:** At an August 2023 site visit, the federal Office of Child Care (OCC) found that Minnesota was out of compliance with CCDF regulations (45 CFR 98.44(b)(2)(i), 45 CFR 98.42(b)(2)(i), and 45 CFR 98.42(b)(2)(ii)) by not specifying the number of ongoing training hours needed for various roles within licensed child care centers, family child care, and certified child care centers. In order to come into compliance, this proposal adds a minimum of two hours of training each calendar year for licensed child care center substitutes and unsupervised volunteers; a minimum of one hour of training each calendar year for family child care substitutes and adult caregivers who provide care for 500 or fewer hours per year; and at least two hours of training each calendar year for certified child care center substitutes. The existing training requirements will be sufficient to meet the minimum hours. There is no change to the required training topics. (sections added in author’s amendment).