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SENATE FILE 192 HUMAN RESOURCES
BY TINSMAN and RAGAN

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring the department of human services to develop and
2 implement a voluntary child care quality rating system.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 192
HUMAN RESOURCES

1 Section 1. Section 237A.30, Code 2005, is amended by
2 striking the section and inserting in lieu thereof the
3 following:

4 237A.30 CHILD CARE QUALITY RATING SYSTEM.

5 1. The department shall work with the community
6 empowerment office of the department of management established
7 in section 28.3 and the state child care advisory council in
8 designing and implementing a quality rating system for each
9 provider type of child care facility.

10 2. The quality rating system shall be voluntary and
11 composed of multiple ratings based upon the rating criteria
12 adopted for the system. The initial system shall provide for
13 five levels; however, the department may periodically revise
14 the system to change the number of levels and make other
15 changes to improve the system. The department shall identify
16 the period for which a rating is awarded and the means by
17 which a rating may be withdrawn or modified.

18 3. The criteria utilized for the rating system may include
19 but are not limited to any of the following: facility type;
20 provider staff experience, education, training, and
21 credentials; facility director education and training; an
22 environmental rating score or other direct assessment
23 environmental methodology; national accreditation; facility
24 history of compliance with law and rules; child-to-staff
25 ratio; curriculum; business practices; staff retention rates;
26 evaluation of staff members and program practices; staff
27 compensation and benefit practices; provider and staff
28 membership in professional early childhood organizations; and
29 parental involvement with the facility.

30 4. The department may directly administer or contract for
31 the administration of the quality rating system. A facility's
32 quality rating may be included on the internet page and in the
33 consumer information provided by the department pursuant to
34 section 237A.25 and shall be identified in the child care
35 provider referrals made by child care resource and referral

1 service grantees under section 237A.26.

2 5. For reimbursement paid under the state child care
3 assistance program established in section 237A.13, the
4 department may implement a reimbursement rate methodology
5 applicable to child care facilities participating in the
6 rating system in which the reimbursement rate varies based
7 upon the rating of a facility. In addition, as part of the
8 quality rating system, the department may pay an achievement
9 bonus to providers that are awarded a quality rating.

10 Sec. 2. PHASED IMPLEMENTATION.

11 1. Effective July 1, 2005, the department of human
12 services shall no longer accept applications for the gold seal
13 quality designation for child care providers under section
14 237A.30, Code 2005. However, if a child care provider has
15 been awarded the designation prior to July 1, 2005, the
16 designation may continue to be utilized for that provider
17 until the designated period of nationally recognized
18 accreditation for which the gold seal designation was awarded
19 has ended.

20 2. The department of human services shall commence
21 implementation of the child care quality rating system under
22 section 237A.30, as amended by this Act, by awarding ratings
23 beginning on or after January 1, 2006. The department may
24 modify implementation of the rating system and the rating
25 system itself as necessary to conform to the funding made
26 available for the rating system for the fiscal year beginning
27 July 1, 2005.

28 EXPLANATION

29 This bill requires the department of human services to
30 develop and implement a voluntary child care quality rating
31 system.

32 Code section 237A.30, providing for recognition of high-
33 quality child care providers with a gold seal quality child
34 care provider designation, is stricken and replaced with a new
35 child care quality rating system for child care facilities.

1 Code chapter 237A defines the term "child care facility" to
2 mean a child care center, preschool, or registered child
3 development home. The new rating system is required to be
4 voluntary and to include multiple ratings. The initial system
5 is required to have five rating levels for each provider type
6 but the system may be revised by the department to improve it.
7 The department is required to develop the rating system by
8 working with the community empowerment office of the
9 department of management and the state child care advisory
10 council. The bill lists various criteria that the department
11 may use in developing the multiple ratings to be used in the
12 quality rating system.

13 The bill requires the department to stop accepting
14 applications for the gold seal quality child care provider
15 designation effective July 1, 2005. However, the designation
16 may continue to be used until the designated period of
17 nationally recognized accreditation has ended.

18 The department is required to commence implementation of
19 the quality rating system by awarding ratings beginning on or
20 after January 1, 2006. The department is authorized to modify
21 the implementation of the rating system and the rating system
22 itself as necessary to conform to the funding available for
23 the rating system for fiscal year 2005-2006.

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