

SB 813 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Meeting Dates: 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Office of Child Care to make reasonable attempt to identify any child care facility about which it receives a complaint if the complaint includes specified, identifiable information. Allows Early Learning Council to adopt definition of "serious complaint" by rule and requires definition include notifications or reports of alleged child abuse received by the Office of Child Care. Allows Early Learning Council to adopt definition of "regulated subsidy facility" by rule. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Child care facilities include day nurseries, nursery schools, child care centers, certified or registered family child care homes, or similar entities that care for children operating under any name. Child care providers must be licensed, registered, or certified with the Office of Child Care (OCC) within the Early Learning Division (ELD) of the Department of Education.

All child care staff and any individual who may have unsupervised access to children (e.g., adults living in the home, volunteers, maintenance staff, and office staff) are subject to a background check and required to enroll in the Central Background Registry maintained by the OCC. The OCC also conducts on-site assessments of all complaints. The public can also search facilities online to find complaint information about active and pending licensees, as well as those found to be providing unlicensed or unlawful child care. The OCC is authorized to conduct on-site investigations of child care facilities if illegal child care is alleged and is *required* to conduct such investigations if there is a serious complaint.

Senate Bill 813 A requires the OCC to make reasonable attempts to identify any facility about which it receives a complaint if the complaint includes enough detail to determine who the child is, or a provider, or owner, operator, or employee, or specific information about the facility itself. The measure also allows the Early Learning Council, which oversees the ELD, to adopt a definition of "serious complaint" by rule and requires the definition to include notifications or reports of alleged child abuse received by the OCC.