

House File 367 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 367

BY MASCHER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requesting the establishment of a legislative interim
2 study committee to create a plan to provide universal
3 learning and child care centers and programs.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. LEGISLATIVE INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE — UNIVERSAL
2 LEARNING AND CARE CENTER PROGRAMS.

3 1. The legislative council is requested to establish an
4 interim study committee to create a plan to provide universal
5 comprehensive learning and child care centers and programs for
6 children from zero to age five.

7 2. The study committee shall do all of the following:

8 a. Address the optimal group sizes for infants and toddlers
9 and optimal ratios for caregiver to infant and teacher to
10 toddler, quality of physical environment, primary caregiving
11 assignments and the appropriate preparation needed for an
12 assignment, continuity and seamless transition to next levels
13 of care and learning, cultural and familial continuity and
14 optimal levels of participation, and measures for meeting the
15 needs of the individual within the group context.

16 b. Examine the feasibility of combining center-based
17 care and home-based care arrangements to realize the
18 cognitive benefits child care centers are known for with the
19 socioemotional benefits home-based arrangements often achieve.

20 c. Develop and make recommendations for sharing and other
21 arrangements for center and program sites when the local school
22 district lacks capacity.

23 d. Identify and make recommendations for resolution of
24 transportation issues and the associated costs of transporting
25 children enrolled in universal comprehensive learning and child
26 care centers and programs.

27 e. Examine the feasibility of providing regional incentives
28 to increase collaborative efforts or provide funding for
29 renovation and other facility costs in areas experiencing
30 learning and child care center and program scarcity.

31 f. Review and recommend best practices for outreach to
32 ensure that parents are aware of local options for learning and
33 child care centers and programs.

34 3. The study committee shall submit its plan, findings, and
35 recommendations in a report to the general assembly by December

1 20, 2019.

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EXPLANATION

3 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
4 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

5 This bill requests that the legislative council establish an
6 interim study committee to create a plan to provide universal
7 comprehensive learning and child care centers and programs for
8 children from zero to age five.

9 The study committee shall address the optimal group sizes
10 and adult-to-child ratios, quality of physical environment,
11 primary caregiving assignments and preparation, continuity
12 and seamless transition to next levels, cultural and familial
13 continuity and optimal levels of participation, and measures
14 for meeting the needs of the individual within the group
15 context; examine the feasibility of combining center-based
16 care and home-based care arrangements; develop and make
17 recommendations for sharing and other arrangements when
18 the local school district lacks capacity; identify and make
19 recommendations for resolution of related transportation
20 issues; examine the feasibility of providing regional
21 incentives to increase collaborative efforts; and review and
22 recommend best practices for outreach.

23 The study committee shall submit its plan, findings, and
24 recommendations in a report to the general assembly by December
25 20, 2019.