

Senate File 2488

S-5244

1 Amend Senate File 2488 as follows:

2 1. By striking everything after the enacting clause and
3 inserting:

4 <DIVISION I

5 EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY SERVICES SYSTEM

6 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 234A.1 Definitions.

7 For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context
8 otherwise requires:

9 1. "*Community resources*" means locally focused,
10 strength-based programs and supports that aim to enhance family
11 functioning and resilience, promote child development and
12 safety, and prevent future involvement with child protective
13 services or the juvenile justice system.

14 2. "*Department*" means the department of health and human
15 services.

16 3. "*Early childhood and family services district*" or "*ECFS*
17 *district*" means a health and human services district utilized
18 for the purpose of administering the ECFS system.

19 4. "*Early childhood and family services district advisory*
20 *council*" or "*ECFS district advisory council*" means an advisory
21 council established under section 234A.3.

22 5. "*Early childhood and family services district plan*" or
23 "*ECFS district plan*" means a plan developed by the department
24 to outline the ECFS system infrastructure of a district and
25 the programs and services intended to be provided within that
26 district.

27 6. "*Early childhood and family services state plan*" or "*ECFS*
28 *state plan*" means the plan developed by the department that
29 describes the key components of the state's ECFS system.

30 7. "*Early childhood and family services system*" or "*ECFS*
31 *system*" means the system established in section 234A.2.

32 8. "*Early childhood and family services system fund*" or "*ECFS*
33 *system fund*" means the fund created in section 234A.6.

34 9. "*Early intervention strategies*" means services and
35 supports designed to proactively identify and address risk

1 factors and includes services that aim to strengthen families,
2 promote healthy development, and reduce the likelihood of abuse
3 or neglect by providing timely, targeted assistance to children
4 and caregivers through the ECFS system.

5 10. "*Evidence-based*" means practices, programs, and policies
6 grounded in the best available research and data, and that have
7 been scientifically tested and shown to be effective through
8 rigorous evaluation.

9 11. "*Family support services*" include group-based parent
10 education and home visiting programs designed to strengthen
11 protective factors including parenting skills, increase
12 parental knowledge of child development, and increase family
13 functioning and problem-solving skills. Family support
14 services may be used as an early intervention strategy to
15 improve birth outcomes, parental knowledge, family economic
16 success, the home learning environment, family and child
17 involvement with others, and coordination with other community
18 resources. Family support services may have a specific focus
19 on preventing child maltreatment or ensuring children are safe,
20 healthy, and ready to succeed in school.

21 12. "*Health and human services district*" means the same as
22 defined in section 217.1.

23 13. "*HOPES-HFI program*" means the healthy opportunities for
24 parents to experience success – healthy families Iowa program
25 established in section 234A.5.

26 14. "*Ongoing family and community resources*" means a
27 continuum of sustained, accessible, and family-centered
28 resources provided through the ECFS system that help families
29 meet their needs, strengthen protective factors, and prevent
30 child abuse and neglect.

31 15. "*Primary prevention strategies*" means a comprehensive
32 set of services and supports provided through the ECFS system
33 that are designed to strengthen families, promote healthy child
34 development, and prevent adverse outcomes before they occur.
35 These activities focus on addressing the underlying social,

1 economic, and environmental conditions that place children and
2 families at risk, such as poverty, social isolation, and lack
3 of access to quality early care and education.

4 16. "*Protective factor*" means an inherent strength,
5 resource, or capacity of a family, or a resource that helps a
6 family thrive, buffer against stress, and reduce the likelihood
7 of child abuse, neglect, or other poor outcome.

8 17. "*Strength-based*" means an approach that focuses
9 on identifying and building upon the inherent strengths,
10 resources, and capacities of a family to support the family's
11 growth, resilience, and well-being.

12 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 234A.2 **Early childhood and family**
13 **services system — department powers and duties.**

14 1. An early childhood and family services system is
15 established under the control of the department for the
16 purposes of implementing a statewide array of primary
17 prevention strategies, early intervention strategies, and
18 ongoing family and community resources for families and their
19 children under nineteen years of age.

20 2. The ECFS system shall be administered in a manner to
21 maximize funding opportunities, interagency collaboration, and
22 integration of activities and services that support positive
23 outcomes for children and families.

24 3. The ECFS system shall support equitable statewide access
25 to all services, supports, and other resources offered through
26 the ECFS system that, at a minimum, shall include all of the
27 following:

28 a. Evidence-based primary prevention strategies, including
29 family support services, designed to assist families in
30 establishing healthy, successful futures.

31 b. Tailored early intervention strategies for children and
32 families to ensure long-term well-being, including economic
33 self-sufficiency.

34 c. Ongoing family and community resources for children and
35 families to address the root causes of child abuse and neglect

1 and enhance protective factors.

2 *d.* Specific service components including early childhood
3 services, evidence-based family support services, and community
4 resources.

5 4. To the extent funding is available, the department
6 shall do all of the following to develop and administer the
7 ECFS system and carry out the department's duties under this
8 chapter:

9 *a.* Plan, establish, and maintain primary prevention
10 strategies, early intervention strategies, and ongoing family
11 and community resources.

12 *b.* (1) Develop an early childhood and family services state
13 plan that is consistent with the department's agency strategic
14 plan adopted pursuant to section 8E.204, and the state health
15 improvement plan developed under section 217.17.

16 (2) When developing the ECFS state plan, the department
17 shall do all of the following:

18 (a) Collaborate with stakeholders including but not
19 limited to experienced public health and medical providers, law
20 enforcement, educators, the early childhood Iowa state board,
21 the early childhood Iowa area boards, and organizations that
22 represent populations including but not limited to children to
23 be served by the ECFS system.

24 (b) Publish the proposed ECFS state plan on the department's
25 internet site and allow the public to review and comment on the
26 proposed ECFS state plan prior to adoption.

27 *c.* Administer the ECFS system in each ECFS district based on
28 early childhood and family services district plans.

29 *d.* Develop ECFS district plans in collaboration with ECFS
30 system partners and stakeholders.

31 *e.* Establish ECFS district advisory councils pursuant to
32 section 234A.3.

33 *f.* Coordinate administration of each ECFS district plan with
34 federal and state resources.

35 *g.* Enter into contracts as necessary to perform activities,

1 and provide services, supports, and other resources in
2 accordance with each ECFS district plan.

3 *h.* Coordinate district activities with other state agencies
4 and state-funded initiatives that support positive outcomes for
5 children and families.

6 *i.* Administer and distribute federal aid received, and state
7 appropriations, grants, and other moneys deposited into the
8 early childhood and family services system fund.

9 *j.* Oversee, provide technical assistance to, and monitor
10 department contractors to ensure compliance with ECFS district
11 plans.

12 *k.* Establish and maintain data collection and management
13 information systems to identify, collect, and analyze service
14 outcomes and performance data to address the needs of clients,
15 providers, the department, and ECFS system programs.

16 *l.* Collect, maintain, monitor, analyze, and utilize
17 information including but not limited to ECFS client records
18 and programmatic, state, and national data, engage in studies
19 and analyses, and gather relevant statistics to understand
20 emerging needs and effectively deploy information, resources,
21 and technical assistance in response.

22 *m.* Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to administer this
23 chapter.

24 *n.* Take any other necessary actions to execute the
25 department's duties under this chapter or maintain compliance
26 with federal requirements.

27 5. The department may do all of the following to develop and
28 administer the ECFS system:

29 *a.* Cooperate with any state agency, political subdivision,
30 or federal governmental agency to apply for grants.

31 *b.* Solicit and accept for use any gift of money, by will or
32 otherwise, and any grant of money or services from the federal
33 government, the state, a political subdivision of the state or
34 federal government, or a private source.

35 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 234A.3 **Early childhood and family**

1 **services district advisory councils.**

2 1. The department shall establish an early childhood
3 and family services district advisory council in each ECFS
4 district. The department shall develop policies and procedures
5 for the operational functions of each ECFS district advisory
6 council.

7 2. An ECFS district advisory council shall consist of ten
8 members appointed by the department. Individuals eligible
9 for appointment include but are not limited to all of the
10 following:

11 *a.* Elected public officials who currently hold office within
12 the ECFS district.

13 *b.* Individuals who have experience or expertise related to
14 health, education, domestic assault response, abuse response,
15 or community-based child abuse prevention.

16 *c.* Individuals who are representative of the populations
17 served in the ECFS district advisory council's ECFS district.

18 *d.* Individuals who represent the faith community or
19 community partners in the ECFS district advisory council's ECFS
20 district.

21 3. An ECFS district advisory council shall do all of the
22 following:

23 *a.* Identify opportunities and address challenges based
24 on updates received from the department relating to the
25 implementation of the ECFS district plan for the ECFS district
26 advisory council's ECFS district.

27 *b.* Provide feedback to the department while the department
28 is developing ECFS system policies.

29 *c.* Advise the department on how to best provide families
30 access to primary prevention strategies, early intervention
31 strategies, and ongoing family and community resources
32 throughout the ECFS district advisory council's ECFS district.

33 4. An ECFS district advisory council shall perform the
34 duties required under this section regardless of whether any
35 seat on the ECFS district advisory council is vacant.

1 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 234A.4 Data collection and use.

2 1. The department shall perform all of the following actions
3 related to ECFS system data:

4 *a.* (1) Collect, maintain, monitor, analyze, and utilize
5 data, including but not limited to child welfare data, Medicaid
6 data, ECFS system data, and other data depicting the status of
7 children and families in the state, as necessary to issue cost
8 estimates for serving populations, make and receive payments,
9 conduct operations, and perform ECFS system activities.

10 (2) When performing duties under this paragraph, the
11 department shall maintain compliance with applicable federal
12 and state privacy laws to ensure the confidentiality and
13 integrity of individually identifiable data.

14 (3) The department shall periodically assess the status of
15 the department's compliance with subparagraph (2) to ensure
16 that data collected and maintained by the department under this
17 paragraph is protected.

18 *b.* To the extent possible, establish a record for each
19 individual receiving publicly funded ECFS system services.
20 Each record established under this paragraph shall include a
21 unique client identifier for the purposes of identifying and
22 tracking the individual's record.

23 *c.* Consult with department contractors and other ECFS system
24 stakeholders on an ongoing basis relating to the administration
25 of the ECFS system, including but not limited to reviewing
26 trends and outcomes as indicators for improving or modifying
27 administration of the ECFS system.

28 *d.* Engage with entities that maintain information the
29 department is required to collect pursuant to this section to
30 integrate data relating to individuals receiving ECFS system
31 services.

32 *e.* Engage with entities that maintain general population
33 data relating to the ECFS system to develop action plans,
34 create projections relating to a population's ECFS system
35 needs, develop ECFS system policies, and otherwise perform

1 activities as necessary to support families in achieving a
2 healthy, successful future.

3 2. The department shall ensure that public and private
4 agencies, organizations, and individuals that operate within
5 the ECFS system use uniform methods to maintain statistical
6 information relating to ECFS system outcomes and performance.

7 **Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 234A.5 Healthy families programs —**
8 **HOPES-HFI program.**

9 1. The department may establish the HOPES-HFI program to
10 provide services to families and children during a child's
11 prenatal through preschool years. If established, the
12 HOPES-HFI program shall do all of the following:

13 a. Promote optimal child health and development.

14 b. Improve family coping skills and functioning.

15 c. Promote positive parenting skills and intrafamilial
16 interaction.

17 d. Prevent child abuse, child neglect, infant mortality, and
18 infant morbidity.

19 2. The department shall administer the HOPES-HFI program,
20 in whole or in part, by contracting with local organizations
21 that use evidence-based home visiting models.

22 **Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 234A.6 Early childhood and family**
23 **services system fund.**

24 1. An early childhood and family services system fund
25 is created in the state treasury under the control of the
26 department and consisting of any moneys appropriated to the
27 department for the ECFS system fund's purposes by the general
28 assembly and any other moneys available and obtained or
29 accepted by the department for deposit in the ECFS system fund.
30 The ECFS system fund shall be used to implement and administer
31 the ECFS system.

32 2. Moneys in the ECFS system fund are appropriated to the
33 department for the purposes of implementing and administering
34 the ECFS system.

35 3. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in

1 this section that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the
2 close of a fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain
3 available for expenditure for the purposes designated.

4 4. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or
5 earnings on moneys in the ECFS system fund shall be credited
6 to the ECFS system fund.

7 Sec. 7. REPEAL. Section 135.106, Code 2026, is repealed.

8 Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. The section of this division of
9 this Act enacting section 234A.6, being deemed of immediate
10 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

11 DIVISION II

12 DECATEGORIZATION INITIATIVE

13 Sec. 9. Section 235.7, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 2. *Membership.* ~~The department may authorize the governance~~
16 ~~boards of decategorization of child welfare and juvenile~~
17 ~~justice funding projects established under [section 232.188](#) to~~
18 ~~appoint the transition committee membership and may utilize~~
19 ~~the boundaries of decategorization projects to establish~~
20 ~~the service areas for transition committees. The committee~~
21 A committee's membership may include but is not limited to
22 department staff involved with foster care, child welfare,
23 and adult services, juvenile court services staff, staff
24 involved with county general assistance or emergency relief
25 under [chapter 251](#) or [252](#), school district and area education
26 agency staff involved with special education, and a child's
27 court appointed special advocate, guardian ad litem, service
28 providers, and other persons knowledgeable about the child.

29 Sec. 10. Section 237A.1, subsection 2, paragraph j,
30 subparagraph (2), Code 2026, is amended by striking the
31 subparagraph.

32 Sec. 11. Section 249A.26, subsection 5, Code 2026, is
33 amended by striking the subsection.

34 Sec. 12. Section 256I.4, subsection 6, Code 2026, is amended
35 by striking the subsection.

1 Sec. 13. REPEAL. Section 232.188, Code 2026, is repealed.

2 Sec. 14. DECATEGORIZATION FUNDING AND INITIATIVES.

3 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context
4 otherwise requires:

5 a. "Carryover funding" means unobligated or unencumbered
6 moneys described in section 232.188, subsection 5, paragraph
7 "b", Code 2026, at the close of the fiscal year beginning July
8 1, 2025.

9 b. "Decategorization initiative" means the services and
10 activities funded through a funding pool.

11 c. "Department" means the department of health and human
12 services.

13 d. "Funding" means moneys transferred to and remaining in a
14 funding pool at the close of the fiscal year that began July 1,
15 2025, and that consist of any of the following:

16 (1) Moneys appropriated by the general assembly and
17 designated for a decategorization initiative.

18 (2) Moneys appropriated by the general assembly to the
19 department for child welfare and juvenile justice services and
20 designated for a decategorization initiative by the department.

21 (3) Moneys appropriated to juvenile court services for
22 juvenile justice programs and designated for a decategorization
23 initiative.

24 (4) Carryover funding.

25 e. "Funding pool" means the same as defined in section
26 232.188, Code 2026.

27 f. "Governance board" means the same as defined in section
28 232.188, Code 2026.

29 2. a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
30 funding that consists of moneys designated for decategorization
31 initiatives and transferred to a funding pool by the department
32 that remains in a funding pool at the close of the fiscal year
33 beginning July 1, 2025, that has been encumbered or obligated
34 by the governance board for a decategorization initiative or
35 by contract beyond the end of that fiscal year, shall remain

1 available for expenditure to ensure continuation of such
2 decategorization initiative or contract until the close of the
3 succeeding fiscal year, unless otherwise determined by the
4 department under subsection 5.

5 b. Any encumbered or obligated moneys remaining in a funding
6 pool as specified in paragraph "a" at the close of the fiscal
7 year that begins July 1, 2026, which are not encumbered or
8 obligated by the department as determined under subsection 5
9 shall be transferred and appropriated to the department.

10 3. a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
11 juvenile court services shall terminate all decategorization
12 initiative contracts funded through moneys designated for a
13 decategorization initiative and transferred to a funding pool
14 by juvenile court services at the close of the fiscal year
15 that began July 1, 2025, and shall not renew or extend such
16 contracts.

17 b. Moneys encumbered or obligated under a contract
18 terminated under this subsection that remain in a funding pool
19 at the close of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, shall
20 be transferred and appropriated to juvenile court services.

21 4. a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the
22 contrary, moneys that remain in a funding pool at the end of
23 the fiscal year that began July 1, 2025, that are unencumbered
24 or unobligated by the governance board for a decategorization
25 initiative or by contract at the close of the fiscal year,
26 shall be transferred and appropriated to the department and
27 juvenile court services proportionately based on the percentage
28 of moneys designated for decategorization initiatives and
29 transferred to funding pools by each entity for each fiscal
30 year for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2020, and ending
31 June 30, 2026.

32 b. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary
33 including section 8.33, moneys transferred and appropriated
34 to the department and juvenile court services under this
35 subsection shall not revert but shall remain available to those

1 entities to be used for child welfare and juvenile justice
2 services until expended.

3 5. a. With input from appropriate stakeholders, the
4 department shall identify each contract funded through a
5 funding pool impacted by this division of this Act.

6 b. The department shall evaluate each contract identified
7 under paragraph "a" to determine the following:

8 (1) If termination is permitted by the terms of a contract
9 being evaluated, whether the department should exercise the
10 option to terminate the contract by June 30, 2026, or continue
11 the contract until the end of the current contract term.

12 (2) If termination is not permitted by the terms of the
13 contract, whether the contract should be renewed or extended by
14 the department at the end of the current contract term.

15 (3) Whether the department should assume responsibility
16 for a contract for the remainder of the current term of the
17 contract, for the term of the contract if the contract is
18 renewed, or for the term of the contract if the contract is
19 extended to avoid service interruption.

20 c. Unless otherwise provided under this section, a
21 governance board or other entity shall not execute a contract
22 for a decategorization initiative if the contract is funded
23 through moneys in a funding pool after the effective date of
24 this section of this division of this Act, or if the term of the
25 contract extends beyond, or the deliverables under the contract
26 would be provided after, June 30, 2027.

27 Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATE. The section of this division of
28 this Act related to decategorization funding and initiatives,
29 being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon
30 enactment.

31 Sec. 16. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. The section of this
32 division of this Act related to decategorization funding and
33 initiatives applies retroactively to July 1, 2025.

34
35

DIVISION III
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

1 Sec. 17. Section 144.13A, subsection 5, paragraph a, Code
2 2026, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Ten dollars of each registration fee is appropriated and
4 shall be used for ~~primary and secondary~~ child abuse prevention
5 ~~programs pursuant to section 235A.1~~, and ten dollars of each
6 registration fee is appropriated and shall be used for the
7 congenital and inherited disorders central registry established
8 pursuant to [section 136A.6](#). Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#),
9 moneys appropriated in this paragraph that remain unencumbered
10 or unobligated at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert
11 but shall remain available for expenditure for the purposes
12 designated until the close of the succeeding fiscal year, and
13 shall not be transferred, used, obligated, appropriated, or
14 otherwise encumbered except as provided in this paragraph.

15 Sec. 18. Section 422.12K, Code 2026, is amended to read as
16 follows:

17 **422.12K Income tax checkoff for child abuse prevention**
18 ~~program fund.~~

19 1. A person who files an individual or a joint income tax
20 return with the department of revenue under [section 422.13](#) may
21 designate one dollar or more to be paid to the ~~child abuse~~
22 ~~prevention program~~ early childhood and family services system
23 fund created in section ~~235A.2~~ [234A.6](#), to be used for the
24 purpose of child abuse prevention. If the refund due on the
25 return or the payment remitted with the return is insufficient
26 to pay the additional amount designated by the taxpayer to
27 the ~~child abuse prevention program~~ early childhood and family
28 services system fund, the amount designated shall be reduced to
29 the remaining amount remitted with the return. The designation
30 of a contribution to the ~~child abuse prevention program~~ early
31 childhood and family services system fund under [this section](#)
32 is irrevocable.

33 2. The director of revenue shall draft the income tax form
34 to allow the designation of contributions to the ~~child abuse~~
35 ~~prevention program~~ early childhood and family services system

1 fund on the tax return. The department of revenue, on or
2 before January 31, shall transfer the total amount designated
3 on the tax return forms due in the preceding calendar year to
4 the ~~child abuse prevention program~~ early childhood and family
5 services system fund. However, before a checkoff pursuant
6 to [this section](#) shall be permitted, all liabilities on the
7 books of the department and accounts identified as owing under
8 section 421.65 shall be satisfied.

9 3. The department of health and human services may authorize
10 payment of moneys from the ~~child abuse prevention program~~ early
11 childhood and family services system fund for the purpose
12 of child abuse prevention in accordance with section ~~235A.2~~
13 234A.6.

14 4. The department of revenue shall adopt rules to administer
15 this section.

16 5. [This section](#) is subject to repeal under [section 422.12E](#).

17 Sec. 19. REPEAL. Sections 235A.1, 235A.2, and 235A.3, Code
18 2026, are repealed.

19 Sec. 20. CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM FUND — TRANSFER
20 OF MONEYS. Any unencumbered or unobligated moneys remaining
21 in the child abuse prevention program fund created in section
22 235A.2, on June 30, 2026, shall be transferred to the early
23 childhood and family services system fund created in section
24 234A.6, as enacted in this Act.

25 Sec. 21. CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM — REVIEW OF
26 CONTRACTS IMPACTED BY TRANSITION TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD
27 AND FAMILY SERVICES SYSTEM. With input from appropriate
28 stakeholders, the department shall review the child abuse
29 prevention program's contract for program administration and
30 each grant project funded through the child abuse prevention
31 program for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
32 June 30, 2026, impacted by this division of this Act. The
33 department shall work with the child abuse prevention program's
34 program administrator, local child abuse stakeholders, and
35 grant project recipients to transition the funding and child

1 abuse prevention administration and service delivery to the
2 early childhood and family services system established in
3 division I of this Act.

4 Sec. 22. EFFECTIVE DATE. The section of this division of
5 this Act relating to the review of contracts impacted by the
6 transition of the child abuse prevention program to the early
7 childhood and family services system, being deemed of immediate
8 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

9 Sec. 23. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. The section of this
10 division of this Act relating to the review of contracts
11 impacted by the transition of the child abuse prevention
12 program to the early childhood and family services system
13 applies retroactively to July 1, 2025.

14 DIVISION IV

15 EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA INITIATIVE — EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY
16 SERVICES

17 Sec. 24. EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA INITIATIVE — EARLY CHILDHOOD
18 AND FAMILY SERVICES.

19 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context
20 otherwise requires:

21 a. "Department" means the department of health and human
22 services.

23 b. "Early childhood Iowa area" means the same as defined in
24 section 256I.1.

25 c. "Early childhood Iowa area board" means the same as
26 defined in section 256I.1.

27 d. "Early childhood Iowa initiative" means the same as
28 described in section 256I.2.

29 e. "ECFS system" means the same as defined in section
30 234A.1, as enacted in division I of this Act.

31 2. If the department receives a request from an early
32 childhood Iowa area board to transition administration of home
33 visiting services to the ECFS system, the department shall
34 develop and implement a plan to facilitate the transfer. The
35 department's plan shall, at a minimum, include all of the

1 following:

2 a. With input from appropriate stakeholders, the department
3 shall identify each current home visiting services contract
4 executed by the early childhood Iowa area board requesting the
5 transfer of administration of home visiting services. The
6 early childhood Iowa area board shall, if permitted by the
7 terms of a contract, exercise the option to terminate the
8 contract. If a contract does not permit early termination, the
9 contract shall be terminated at the end of the current term of
10 the contract. A contract identified under this paragraph shall
11 not be renewed or extended at the end of the current contract
12 term.

13 b. All debts, claims, or other liabilities owed to an early
14 childhood Iowa area board, or the board's early childhood
15 Iowa area, due to home visiting services provided or rendered
16 pursuant to chapter 256I prior to transfer of administration
17 of home visiting services to the ECFS system shall remain due
18 and owing after administration of home visiting services is
19 transferred to the ECFS system. Each fiscal agent contracted
20 with an early childhood Iowa area board shall collect such
21 outstanding debts, claims, or other liabilities.

22 c. An early childhood Iowa area board or an agent of an
23 early childhood Iowa area board shall not enter into, renew, or
24 extend a home visiting services contract related to the early
25 childhood Iowa initiative or related activities if the term
26 of the contract extends past, or the deliverables under the
27 contract would be provided after, the date administration of
28 the home visiting services is transferred to the ECFS system.

29 d. The department shall ensure that individuals currently
30 receiving home visiting services provided through the early
31 childhood Iowa initiative by the early childhood Iowa area
32 board requesting the transfer of administration of home
33 visiting services have uninterrupted continuity of care during
34 the transition.

35 e. The department shall maintain ongoing communication

1 with, and provide a means to receive input from, the early
2 childhood Iowa area board requesting the transfer of
3 administration of home visiting services during the selection
4 process for home visiting services providers in the early
5 childhood Iowa area board's early childhood Iowa area. The
6 department shall collaborate with the director of the early
7 childhood Iowa area board when selecting a home visiting
8 services provider. The department shall ensure that each
9 contract the department enters into for home visiting services
10 requires that the contracted home visiting services provider
11 inform the early childhood Iowa area board that the home
12 visiting services provider will provide home visiting services
13 in the early childhood Iowa area board's early childhood Iowa
14 area.

15 3. During and after the transfer of administration of home
16 visiting services to the ECFS system, and contingent upon the
17 department's receipt of additional federal funds for home
18 visiting services pursuant to the Social Security Act, Tit.
19 IV-E, the department shall annually redistribute among all
20 early childhood Iowa areas that made a request under subsection
21 2 the following percentages of the additional federal funds
22 received for coordination of early childhood services for
23 children from age zero through age five:

24 a. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, and ending
25 June 30, 2028, twenty-five percent.

26 b. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2028, and ending
27 June 30, 2029, fifteen percent.

28 c. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2029, and ending
29 June 30, 2030, five percent.

30

DIVISION V

31

EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

32

Sec. 25. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL — EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA

33

INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE.

34

1. The legislative council shall convene a study committee

35

during the 2026 legislative interim to review the most

1 efficient means to transition home visiting services offered
2 through an early childhood Iowa area, as that term is defined
3 in section 256I.1, to another system based on districts created
4 by the department of health and human services and to implement
5 the transition with minimal disruption to home visitation
6 services. At a minimum, the study committee shall review all
7 of the following:

8 a. The financial and logistical consequences to the early
9 childhood Iowa system and home visitation services.

10 b. The effects on statewide access to services currently
11 provided through early childhood Iowa, including but not
12 limited to the quality of services and the coordination between
13 providers and the department.

14 c. The impact on rural and underserved communities.

15 d. Possible courses of action to transition home visitation
16 services to ensure the early childhood Iowa system remains
17 viable and effective in the long term.

18 2. a. The study committee's voting members shall consist
19 of the following:

20 (1) Two members of the senate appointed by the senate
21 majority leader.

22 (2) One member of the senate appointed by the senate
23 minority leader.

24 (3) Two members of the house of representatives appointed
25 by the house majority leader.

26 (4) One member of the house of representatives appointed by
27 the house minority leader.

28 b. The study committee's nonvoting members shall consist of
29 the following:

30 (1) Two members of the association of early childhood Iowa
31 area boards and advocates appointed by the association of early
32 childhood Iowa area boards and advocates.

33 (2) Two early childhood Iowa stakeholders appointed by the
34 association of early childhood Iowa area boards and advocates.

35 (3) Two persons with relevant expertise appointed by the

1 association of early childhood Iowa area boards and advocates.

2 (4) Two representatives of the department of health and
3 human services.

4 (5) One representative of the department of education.

5 (6) One representative of the department of workforce
6 development.

7 (7) One representative of the economic development
8 authority.

9 3. The department of health and human services shall
10 cooperate with any formal request for data from the study
11 committee. All personal identifying information shall be
12 redacted prior to submitting the requested data to the study
13 committee.

14 4. The study committee shall submit a final report with the
15 study committee's findings and recommendations to the general
16 assembly no later than January 8, 2027. In lieu of a final
17 report, the study committee may submit a bill draft to the
18 general assembly with proposed changes to the Code based on the
19 study committee's findings.

20 DIVISION VI

21 CONFORMING CHANGES

22 Sec. 26. Section 232.69, subsection 1, paragraph b,
23 subparagraph (5), Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

24 (5) An employee or operator of a licensed child care center,
25 registered child development home, head start program, family
26 development and self-sufficiency grant program under section
27 216A.107, or healthy opportunities for parents to experience
28 success - healthy families Iowa program under section ~~135.106~~
29 234A.5.

30 Sec. 27. Section 237A.30, subsection 1, Code 2026, is
31 amended to read as follows:

32 1. The department shall ~~work with the early childhood~~
33 ~~Iowa program established in section 256I.5~~ in designing and
34 ~~implementing~~ implement a voluntary quality rating system for
35 each provider type of child care facility.

1 Sec. 28. Section 256I.13, subsection 1, Code 2026, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. In order to implement the legislative intent stated
4 in ~~sections 135.106~~ and section 256I.9, that priority for
5 family support program funding be given to programs using
6 evidence-based or promising models for family support, it is
7 the intent of the general assembly that ninety percent of state
8 funds expended for family support programs shall be used for
9 evidence-based or promising program models. The remaining ten
10 percent of funds may be used for innovative program models that
11 do not yet meet the definition of evidence-based or promising
12 programs.

13 DIVISION VII

14 CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVES

15 Sec. 29. CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVES. The Code editor is
16 directed to do all of the following:

17 1. Make changes in any Code sections amended or enacted
18 by any other Act to correspond with the changes made in this
19 Act if there appears to be no doubt as to the proper method of
20 making the changes and the changes would not be contrary to or
21 inconsistent with the purposes of this Act or any other Act.

22 2. Correct internal references in the Code and in enacted
23 legislation as necessary due to the enactment of this Act.>

24 2. Title page, line 3, after <appropriations,> by inserting
25 <convening an early childhood Iowa interim study committee,>

KARA WARME