

Senate File 2488 - Reprinted

SENATE FILE 2488

BY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2462)

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3111)

(As Amended and Passed by the Senate May 1, 2026)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to early childhood and family services,
2 including the creation of an early childhood and family
3 services system, making appropriations, convening an early
4 childhood Iowa interim study committee, and including
5 applicability, retroactive applicability, and effective date
6 provisions.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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DIVISION I

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY SERVICES SYSTEM

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

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

1. *“Community resources”* means locally focused, strength-based programs and supports that aim to enhance family functioning and resilience, promote child development and safety, and prevent future involvement with child protective services or the juvenile justice system.
2. *“Department”* means the department of health and human services.
3. *“Early childhood and family services district”* or *“ECFS district”* means a health and human services district utilized for the purpose of administering the ECFS system.
4. *“Early childhood and family services district advisory council”* or *“ECFS district advisory council”* means an advisory council established under section 234A.3.
5. *“Early childhood and family services district plan”* or *“ECFS district plan”* means a plan developed by the department to outline the ECFS system infrastructure of a district and the programs and services intended to be provided within that district.
6. *“Early childhood and family services state plan”* or *“ECFS state plan”* means the plan developed by the department that describes the key components of the state’s ECFS system.
7. *“Early childhood and family services system”* or *“ECFS system”* means the system established in section 234A.2.
8. *“Early childhood and family services system fund”* or *“ECFS system fund”* means the fund created in section 234A.6.
9. *“Early intervention strategies”* means services and supports designed to proactively identify and address risk factors and includes services that aim to strengthen families, promote healthy development, and reduce the likelihood of abuse or neglect by providing timely, targeted assistance to children

1 and caregivers through the ECFS system.

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

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

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

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

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

28 15. "*Primary prevention strategies*" means a comprehensive
29 set of services and supports provided through the ECFS system
30 that are designed to strengthen families, promote healthy child
31 development, and prevent adverse outcomes before they occur.
32 These activities focus on addressing the underlying social,
33 economic, and environmental conditions that place children and
34 families at risk, such as poverty, social isolation, and lack
35 of access to quality early care and education.

1 16. *“Protective factor”* means an inherent strength,
2 resource, or capacity of a family, or a resource that helps a
3 family thrive, buffer against stress, and reduce the likelihood
4 of child abuse, neglect, or other poor outcome.

5 17. *“Strength-based”* means an approach that focuses
6 on identifying and building upon the inherent strengths,
7 resources, and capacities of a family to support the family’s
8 growth, resilience, and well-being.

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

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

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

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

25 a. Evidence-based primary prevention strategies, including
26 family support services, designed to assist families in
27 establishing healthy, successful futures.

28 b. Tailored early intervention strategies for children and
29 families to ensure long-term well-being, including economic
30 self-sufficiency.

31 c. Ongoing family and community resources for children and
32 families to address the root causes of child abuse and neglect
33 and enhance protective factors.

34 d. Specific service components including early childhood
35 services, evidence-based family support services, and community

1 resources.

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

6 a. Plan, establish, and maintain primary prevention
7 strategies, early intervention strategies, and ongoing family
8 and community resources.

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

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

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

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

24 c. Administer the ECFS system in each ECFS district based on
25 early childhood and family services district plans.

26 d. Develop ECFS district plans in collaboration with ECFS
27 system partners and stakeholders.

28 e. Establish ECFS district advisory councils pursuant to
29 section 234A.3.

30 f. Coordinate administration of each ECFS district plan with
31 federal and state resources.

32 g. Enter into contracts as necessary to perform activities,
33 and provide services, supports, and other resources in
34 accordance with each ECFS district plan.

35 h. Coordinate district activities with other state agencies

1 and state-funded initiatives that support positive outcomes for
2 children and families.

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

6 *j.* Oversee, provide technical assistance to, and monitor
7 department contractors to ensure compliance with ECFS district
8 plans.

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

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

19 *m.* Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to administer this
20 chapter.

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

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

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

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

32 **Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 234A.3 Early childhood and family**
33 **services district advisory councils.**

34 1. The department shall establish an early childhood
35 and family services district advisory council in each ECFS

1 district. The department shall develop policies and procedures
2 for the operational functions of each ECFS district advisory
3 council.

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

8 a. Elected public officials who currently hold office within
9 the ECFS district.

10 b. Individuals who have experience or expertise related to
11 health, education, domestic assault response, abuse response,
12 or community-based child abuse prevention.

13 c. Individuals who are representative of the populations
14 served in the ECFS district advisory council's ECFS district.

15 d. Individuals who represent the faith community or
16 community partners in the ECFS district advisory council's ECFS
17 district.

18 3. An ECFS district advisory council shall do all of the
19 following:

20 a. Identify opportunities and address challenges based
21 on updates received from the department relating to the
22 implementation of the ECFS district plan for the ECFS district
23 advisory council's ECFS district.

24 b. Provide feedback to the department while the department
25 is developing ECFS system policies.

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

30 4. An ECFS district advisory council shall perform the
31 duties required under this section regardless of whether any
32 seat on the ECFS district advisory council is vacant.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 *e.* Engage with entities that maintain general population
30 data relating to the ECFS system to develop action plans,
31 create projections relating to a population's ECFS system
32 needs, develop ECFS system policies, and otherwise perform
33 activities as necessary to support families in achieving a
34 healthy, successful future.

35 2. The department shall ensure that public and private

1 agencies, organizations, and individuals that operate within
2 the ECFS system use uniform methods to maintain statistical
3 information relating to ECFS system outcomes and performance.

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

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

10 a. Promote optimal child health and development.

11 b. Improve family coping skills and functioning.

12 c. Promote positive parenting skills and intrafamilial
13 interaction.

14 d. Prevent child abuse, child neglect, infant mortality, and
15 infant morbidity.

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

19 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **234A.6 Early childhood and family**
20 **services system fund.**

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

29 2. Moneys in the ECFS system fund are appropriated to the
30 department for the purposes of implementing and administering
31 the ECFS system.

32 3. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in
33 this section that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the
34 close of a fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain
35 available for expenditure for the purposes designated.

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

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

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

8 DIVISION II

9 DECATEGORIZATION INITIATIVE

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

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

26 Sec. 10. Section 237A.1, subsection 2, paragraph j,
27 subparagraph (2), Code 2026, is amended by striking the
28 subparagraph.

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

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

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

34 Sec. 14. DECATEGORIZATION FUNDING AND INITIATIVES.

35 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context

1 otherwise requires:

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

6 b. "Decategorization initiative" means the services and
7 activities funded through a funding pool.

8 c. "Department" means the department of health and human
9 services.

10 d. "Funding" means moneys transferred to and remaining in a
11 funding pool at the close of the fiscal year that began July 1,
12 2025, and that consist of any of the following:

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

15 (2) Moneys appropriated by the general assembly to the
16 department for child welfare and juvenile justice services and
17 designated for a decategorization initiative by the department.

18 (3) Moneys appropriated to juvenile court services for
19 juvenile justice programs and designated for a decategorization
20 initiative.

21 (4) Carryover funding.

22 e. "Funding pool" means the same as defined in section
23 232.188, Code 2026.

24 f. "Governance board" means the same as defined in section
25 232.188, Code 2026.

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

1 department under subsection 5.

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

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

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

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

29 b. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary
30 including section 8.33, moneys transferred and appropriated
31 to the department and juvenile court services under this
32 subsection shall not revert but shall remain available to those
33 entities to be used for child welfare and juvenile justice
34 services until expended.

35 5. a. With input from appropriate stakeholders, the

1 department shall identify each contract funded through a
2 funding pool impacted by this division of this Act.

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 Sec. 16. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. The section of this
29 division of this Act related to decategorization funding and
30 initiatives applies retroactively to July 1, 2025.

31 DIVISION III

32 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

33 Sec. 17. Section 144.13A, subsection 5, paragraph a, Code
34 2026, is amended to read as follows:

35 a. Ten dollars of each registration fee is appropriated and

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

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

14 **422.12K Income tax checkoff for child abuse prevention**
15 ~~program fund.~~

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

30 2. The director of revenue shall draft the income tax form
31 to allow the designation of contributions to the ~~child abuse~~
32 ~~prevention program~~ early childhood and family services system
33 fund on the tax return. The department of revenue, on or
34 before January 31, shall transfer the total amount designated
35 on the tax return forms due in the preceding calendar year to

1 the ~~child abuse prevention program~~ early childhood and family
2 services system fund. However, before a checkoff pursuant
3 to [this section](#) shall be permitted, all liabilities on the
4 books of the department and accounts identified as owing under
5 section 421.65 shall be satisfied.

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

11 4. The department of revenue shall adopt rules to administer
12 this section.

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

14 Sec. 19. REPEAL. Sections 235A.1, 235A.2, and 235A.3, Code
15 2026, are repealed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 e. The department shall maintain ongoing communication
33 with, and provide a means to receive input from, the early
34 childhood Iowa area board requesting the transfer of
35 administration of home visiting services during the selection

1 process for home visiting services providers in the early
2 childhood Iowa area board's early childhood Iowa area. The
3 department shall collaborate with the director of the early
4 childhood Iowa area board when selecting a home visiting
5 services provider. The department shall ensure that each
6 contract the department enters into for home visiting services
7 requires that the contracted home visiting services provider
8 inform the early childhood Iowa area board that the home
9 visiting services provider will provide home visiting services
10 in the early childhood Iowa area board's early childhood Iowa
11 area.

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

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

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

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

27 DIVISION V

28 EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

29 Sec. 25. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL — EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA
30 INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE.

31 1. The legislative council shall convene a study committee
32 during the 2026 legislative interim to review the most
33 efficient means to transition home visiting services offered
34 through an early childhood Iowa area, as that term is defined
35 in section 256I.1, to another system based on districts created

1 by the department of health and human services and to implement
2 the transition with minimal disruption to home visitation
3 services. At a minimum, the study committee shall review all
4 of the following:

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

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

11 c. The impact on rural and underserved communities.

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

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

17 (1) Two members of the senate appointed by the senate
18 majority leader.

19 (2) One member of the senate appointed by the senate
20 minority leader.

21 (3) Two members of the house of representatives appointed
22 by the house majority leader.

23 (4) One member of the house of representatives appointed by
24 the house minority leader.

25 b. The study committee's nonvoting members shall consist of
26 the following:

27 (1) Two members of the association of early childhood Iowa
28 area boards and advocates appointed by the association of early
29 childhood Iowa area boards and advocates.

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

32 (3) Two persons with relevant expertise appointed by the
33 association of early childhood Iowa area boards and advocates.

34 (4) Two representatives of the department of health and
35 human services.

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

2 (6) One representative of the department of workforce
3 development.

4 (7) One representative of the economic development
5 authority.

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

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

17 DIVISION VI

18 CONFORMING CHANGES

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

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

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

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

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

35 1. In order to implement the legislative intent stated

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

10 DIVISION VII

11 CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVES

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

- 14 1. Make changes in any Code sections amended or enacted
15 by any other Act to correspond with the changes made in this
16 Act if there appears to be no doubt as to the proper method of
17 making the changes and the changes would not be contrary to or
18 inconsistent with the purposes of this Act or any other Act.
- 19 2. Correct internal references in the Code and in enacted
20 legislation as necessary due to the enactment of this Act.