

Early Childhood and Family Service System Bill Senate File 2488

Last Action:
Senate Appropriations
Committee
April 9, 2026

An Act relating to early childhood and family services, including the creation of an Early Childhood and Family Services system, making appropriations, and including applicability, retroactive applicability, and effective date provisions.

**Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency**

NOTES ON BILLS AND AMENDMENTS (NOBA)

Available online at www.legis.iowa.gov/publications/information/appropriationBillAnalysis

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NEW PROGRAMS, SERVICES, OR ACTIVITIES

Establishes an Early Childhood and Family Services (ECFS) system under the control of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the purposes of implementing a statewide array of primary prevention strategies, early intervention strategies, and ongoing family and community resources for families and their children under 19 years old. Outlines requirements for the HHS in administering the ECFS system.

Page 3, Line 9

Requires the HHS to establish an ECFS district advisory council in each ECFS district and outlines requirements. The HHS is required to develop policies and procedures for the operational functions of each ECFS district advisory council.

Page 5, Line 32

Requires the HHS collect, maintain, monitor, analyze, and utilize data as necessary to perform ECFS system activities. The HHS is required to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of individually identifiable data and periodically assess the status of the HHS's compliance with federal and State privacy laws to ensure data collected and maintained is protected.

Page 6, Line 33

Establishes an ECFS System Fund in the State Treasury under the control of the HHS consisting of any moneys appropriated to the HHS for the ECFS System Fund's purposes by the General Assembly and any other moneys available and obtained or accepted by the HHS for deposit in the ECFS System Fund. Requires the ECFS System Fund to be used to implement and administer the ECFS system. Appropriates moneys in the ECFS System Fund to the HHS for the purposes of implementing and administering the ECFS system. Establishes that interest or earnings on moneys in the ECFS System Fund will be credited to the Fund.

Page 8, Line 19

Requires the HHS, with input from appropriate stakeholders, to review the Child Abuse Prevention program's contract for program administration and each grant project funded through the Child Abuse Prevention program for FY 2026 impacted by Division III of the Bill. The HHS is required to work with the Child Abuse Prevention program's program administrator, local child abuse stakeholders, and grant project recipients to transition the funding and child abuse prevention administration and service delivery to the ECFS system.

Page 13, Line 19

Requires the HHS, in collaboration with the Association of ECI Area Boards and Advocates (AECIABA) and the ECI State Board, to evaluate the operational functions of the ECI initiative and the feasibility and potential impacts of leveraging additional federal resources to inform recommendations to modernize ECI initiative operations.

Page 17, Line 22

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY SERVICE SYSTEM BILL

Requires the HHS to divide the entirety of the State into designated health and human services districts, with the initial districts being the same as the [Behavioral Health Districts](#) designated pursuant to Iowa Code section [225A.4](#) and that exist on the effective date of Division VI of the Bill.

Page 19, Line 5

MAJOR INCREASES/DECREASES/TRANSFERS OF EXISTING PROGRAMS

Appropriates any unencumbered or unobligated carryover funding remaining in a funding pool operated by a decategorization project governance board at the close of FY 2026 to the HHS and Juvenile Court Services. Requires that moneys be appropriated proportionally based on the percentage of moneys appropriated to each entity by the General Assembly for decategorization initiatives.

Page 10, Line 24

Permits a person who files an individual or a joint income tax return with the Department of Revenue to designate \$1 or more to be paid to the Early Childhood and Family Services System Fund for child abuse prevention instead of permitting designation of \$1 or more to be paid to the Child Abuse Prevention Program Fund.

Page 12, Line 9

Transfers any unencumbered or unobligated moneys remaining in the Child Abuse Prevention Program Fund at the close of FY 2026 to the Early Childhood and Family Services System Fund created in Iowa Code section 234A.6, as established by the Bill.

Page 13, Line 13

Requires the HHS to develop and implement a plan to transfer the administration of home visiting services currently funded by the ECI initiative to the ECFS system by January 1, 2028, and outlines what must be included in the plan.

Page 14, Line 28

Requires the HHS during and after the transfer of the administration of home visiting services to the ECFS system, and contingent upon the receipt of additional federal funds for home visiting services pursuant to the [Social Security Act, Tit. IV-E](#), to annual redistribute through the ECI initiative the following percentages, up to \$7.0 million, of the additional federal funds received for coordination of early childhood services for children from age zero through age five:

Page 16, Line 28

- FY 2028 = 25.0%.
- FY 2029 = 15.0%.
- FY 2030 = 5.0%.

FUNDING FOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Requires the HHS to administer and distribute federal aid received and State appropriations, grants, and other moneys deposited into the ECFS System Fund, as created by the Bill.

Page 5, Line 3

STUDIES AND INTENT

Nonreversion

Specifies that moneys appropriated in Iowa Code section 234A.6, as established by the Bill, that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of a fiscal year shall not revert but will remain available for expenditure for the purposes designated.

Page 8, Line 32

Permits carryover funding remaining in a funding pool operated by a decategorization project governance board at the close of FY 2026 that has been encumbered or obligated by the board for a multiyear service decategorization project to remain available for expenditure until the close of FY 2027 or as otherwise agreed by the HHS and Juvenile Court Services after receiving input from appropriate stakeholders.

Page 10, Line 14

Specifies that moneys appropriated under Iowa Code section [144.13A\(5\)\(a\)](#) that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of the fiscal year will remain available for the purposes designated until the close of FY 2028 and will not be transferred, used, obligated, appropriated, or otherwise encumbered, except as provided under Iowa Code section [144.13A\(5\)\(a\)](#).

Page 11, Line 30

Required Reports

Requires the HHS to submit a report regarding the evaluation of the ECI initiative to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than February 5, 2027.

Page 18, Line 12

Rules

Requires the HHS to adopt administrative rules to administer Iowa Code chapter 234A, as established by the Bill.

Page 5, Line 19

Requires the HHS to adopt administrative rules to administer Iowa Code section 217.1B, as established by the Bill.

Page 19, Line 30

SIGNIFICANT CODE CHANGES

Repeals Iowa Code section 135.106 (Healthy Families Programs — HOPES-HFI Program). Instead, Section 5 of the Bill permits the HHS to establish the HOPES–HFI program to provide services to families and children during a child's prenatal through preschool years.	Page 9, Line 4
Repeals Iowa Code section 232.188 relating to the decategorization of child welfare and juvenile justice funding initiative.	Page 9, Line 33
FISCAL IMPACT: The HHS estimates that eliminating child welfare decategorization will have a cost savings to the HHS of \$1.7 million.	
Modifies the standing appropriation of \$10 from each birth certificate registration fee by requiring it be used for child abuse prevention instead of for primary and secondary child abuse prevention programs pursuant to Iowa Code section 235A.1 .	Page 11, Line 30
ENACTMENT DATE <hr/>	
Specifies that Section 6 of Division I enacting Iowa Code section 234A.6 relating to the ECFS System Fund takes effect upon enactment.	Page 9, Line 5
Specifies that Section 14 of Division II related to decategorization carryover funding takes effect upon enactment and applies retroactively to July 1, 2025.	Page 11, Line 22
Specifies that Section 21 of Division III relating to the review of contracts impacted by the transition of the Child Abuse Prevention program to the ECFS system takes effect upon enactment and applies retroactively to July 1, 2025.	Page 13, Line 33
Specifies that Division VI of the Bill relating to health and human services districts is effective July 1, 2026, unless 2026 Iowa Acts, HSB 622 (Health and Human Services Districts Bill), or successor legislation, is passed and enacted amending Iowa Code section 217.1 and enacting Iowa Code section 217.1B prior to July 1, 2026.	Page 19, Line 32

Senate File 2488 provides for the following changes to the Code of Iowa.

Page #	Line #	Bill Section	Action	Code Section
1	3	1	New	234A.1
3	9	2	New	234A.2
5	32	3	New	234A.3
6	33	4	New	234A.4
8	4	5	New	234A.5
8	19	6	New	234A.6
9	4	7	Repeal	135.106
9	10	9	Amend	235.7.2
9	26	10	Strike	237A.1.2.j.(2)
9	29	11	Strike	249A.26.5
9	31	12	Strike	256I.4.6
9	33	13	Repeal	232.188
11	30	17	Amend	144.13A.5.a
12	9	18	Amend	422.12K
13	11	19	Repeal	235A.1; 235A.2; 235A.3
18	34	26	Add	217.1.4
19	5	27	New	217.1B
20	4	29	Amend	232.69.1.b.(5)
20	12	30	Amend	237A.30.1
20	18	31	Amend	256I.13.1

1 1 DIVISION I
1 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY SERVICES SYSTEM

1 3 Section 1. NEW SECTION 234A.1 DEFINITIONS.
1 4 For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context
1 5 otherwise requires:

1 6 1. "Community resources" means locally focused,
1 7 strength-based programs and supports that aim to enhance family
1 8 functioning and resilience, promote child development and
1 9 safety, and prevent future involvement with child protective
1 10 services or the juvenile justice system.

1 11 2. "Department" means the department of health and human
1 12 services.

1 13 3. "Early childhood and family services district" or "ECFS
1 14 district" means a health and human services district utilized
1 15 for the purpose of administering the ECFS system.

1 16 4. "Early childhood and family services district advisory
1 17 council" or "ECFS district advisory council" means an advisory
1 18 council established under section 234A.3.

1 19 5. "Early childhood and family services district plan" or
1 20 "ECFS district plan" means a plan developed by the department
1 21 to outline the ECFS system infrastructure of a district and
1 22 the programs and services intended to be provided within that
1 23 district.

1 24 6. "Early childhood and family services state plan" or "ECFS
1 25 state plan" means the plan developed by the department that
1 26 describes the key components of the state's ECFS system.

1 27 7. "Early childhood and family services system" or "ECFS
1 28 system" means the system established in section 234A.2.

1 29 8. "Early childhood and family services system fund" or "ECFS
1 30 system fund" means the fund created in section 234A.6.

1 31 9. "Early intervention strategies" means services and
1 32 supports designed to proactively identify and address risk
1 33 factors and includes services that aim to strengthen families,
1 34 promote healthy development, and reduce the likelihood of abuse
1 35 or neglect by providing timely, targeted assistance to children
2 1 and caregivers through the ECFS system.

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

CODE: Establishes definitions for the purposes of the Early
Childhood and Family Services (ECFS) system.

2 6 11. "Family support services" include group-based parent
 2 7 education and home visiting programs designed to strengthen
 2 8 protective factors including parenting skills, increase
 2 9 parental knowledge of child development, and increase family
 2 10 functioning and problem-solving skills. Family support
 2 11 services may be used as an early intervention strategy to
 2 12 improve birth outcomes, parental knowledge, family economic
 2 13 success, the home learning environment, family and child
 2 14 involvement with others, and coordination with other community
 2 15 resources. Family support services may have a specific focus
 2 16 on preventing child maltreatment or ensuring children are safe,
 2 17 healthy, and ready to succeed in school.

2 18 12. "Health and human services district" means the same as
 2 19 defined in section 217.1.

2 20 13. "HOPES-HFI program" means the healthy opportunities for
 2 21 parents to experience success – healthy families Iowa program
 2 22 established in section 234A.5.

2 23 14. "Ongoing family and community resources" means a
 2 24 continuum of sustained, accessible, and family-centered
 2 25 resources provided through the ECFS system that help families
 2 26 meet their needs, strengthen protective factors, and prevent
 2 27 child abuse and neglect.

2 28 15. "Primary prevention strategies" means a comprehensive
 2 29 set of services and supports provided through the ECFS system
 2 30 that are designed to strengthen families, promote healthy child
 2 31 development, and prevent adverse outcomes before they occur.
 2 32 These activities focus on addressing the underlying social,
 2 33 economic, and environmental conditions that place children and
 2 34 families at risk, such as poverty, social isolation, and lack
 2 35 of access to quality early care and education.

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

3 5 17. "Strength-based" means an approach that focuses
 3 6 on identifying and building upon the inherent strengths,
 3 7 resources, and capacities of a family to support the family's
 3 8 growth, resilience, and well-being.

3 9 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION 234A.2 EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY
 3 10 SERVICES SYSTEM — DEPARTMENT POWERS AND DUTIES.
 3 11 1. An early childhood and family services system is

CODE: Establishes an ECFS system under the control of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the purposes of implementing a statewide array of primary

3 12 established under the control of the department for the
 3 13 purposes of implementing a statewide array of primary
 3 14 prevention strategies, early intervention strategies, and
 3 15 ongoing family and community resources for families and their
 3 16 children under nineteen years of age.

prevention strategies, early intervention strategies, and ongoing family and community resources for families and their children under 19 years old.

3 17 2. The ECFS system shall be administered in a manner to
 3 18 maximize funding opportunities, interagency collaboration, and
 3 19 integration of activities and services that support positive
 3 20 outcomes for children and families.

CODE: Requires the ECFS system to be administered in a manner to maximize funding opportunities, interagency collaboration, and integration of activities and services that support positive outcomes for children and families.

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

CODE: Requires the ECFS system to support equitable statewide access to all services, supports, and other resources offered through the ECFS system that, at a minimum, include the following:

3 25 a. Evidence-based primary prevention strategies, including
 3 26 family support services, designed to assist families in
 3 27 establishing healthy, successful futures.
 3 28 b. Tailored early intervention strategies for children and
 3 29 families to ensure long-term well-being, including economic
 3 30 self-sufficiency.
 3 31 c. Ongoing family and community resources for children and
 3 32 families to address the root causes of child abuse and neglect
 3 33 and enhance protective factors.
 3 34 d. Specific service components including early childhood
 3 35 services, evidence-based family support services, and community
 4 1 resources.

- Evidence-based primary prevention strategies.
- Tailored early intervention strategies for children and family to ensure long-term well-being, including economic self-sufficiency.
- Ongoing family and community resources that address the root causes of child abuse and neglect and enhance protective factors.
- Specific service components, including early childhood services, evidence-based family support services, and community resources.

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

CODE: Requires the HHS, to the extent which funding is available, to do all of the following to develop and administer the ECFS system:

4 6 a. Plan, establish, and maintain primary prevention
 4 7 strategies, early intervention strategies, and ongoing family
 4 8 and community resources.
 4 9 b. (1) Develop an early childhood and family services state
 4 10 plan that is consistent with the department's agency strategic
 4 11 plan adopted pursuant to section 8E.204, and the state health
 4 12 improvement plan developed under section 217.17.
 4 13 (2) When developing the ECFS state plan, the department
 4 14 shall do all of the following:
 4 15 (a) Collaborate with stakeholders including but not

- Plan, establish, and maintain primary prevention strategies, early intervention strategies, and ongoing family community resources.
- Develop an ECFS State plan that is consistent with the HHS's agency strategic plan adopted pursuant to Iowa Code section [8E.204](#) and the State health improvement plan developed under Iowa Code section [217.17](#).
- Collaborate with stakeholders when developing the ECFS State plan.

4 16 limited to experienced public health and medical providers, law
 4 17 enforcement, educators, the early childhood Iowa state board,
 4 18 the early childhood Iowa area boards, and organizations that
 4 19 represent populations including but not limited to children to
 4 20 be served by the ECFS system.

4 21 (b) Publish the proposed ECFS state plan on the department's
 4 22 internet site and allow the public to review and comment on the
 4 23 proposed ECFS state plan prior to adoption.

4 24 c. Administer the ECFS system in each ECFS district based on
 4 25 early childhood and family services district plans.

4 26 d. Develop ECFS district plans in collaboration with ECFS
 4 27 system partners and stakeholders.

4 28 e. Establish ECFS district advisory councils pursuant to
 4 29 section 234A.3.

4 30 f. Coordinate administration of each ECFS district plan with
 4 31 federal and state resources.

4 32 g. Enter into contracts as necessary to perform activities,
 4 33 and provide services, supports, and other resources in
 4 34 accordance with each ECFS district plan.

4 35 h. Coordinate district activities with other state agencies
 5 1 and state-funded initiatives that support positive outcomes for
 5 2 children and families.

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

5 6 j. Oversee, provide technical assistance to, and monitor
 5 7 department contractors to ensure compliance with ECFS district
 5 8 plans.

5 9 k. Establish and maintain data collection and management
 5 10 information systems to identify, collect, and analyze service
 5 11 outcomes and performance data to address the needs of clients,
 5 12 providers, the department, and ECFS system programs.

5 13 l. Collect, maintain, monitor, analyze, and utilize
 5 14 information including but not limited to ECFS client records
 5 15 and programmatic, state, and national data, engage in studies
 5 16 and analyses, and gather relevant statistics to understand
 5 17 emerging needs and effectively deploy information, resources,
 5 18 and technical assistance in response.

5 19 m. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to administer this
 5 20 chapter.

5 21 n. Take any other necessary actions to execute the
 5 22 department's duties under this chapter or maintain compliance

- Publish the proposed ECFS State plan on the HHS internet site prior to adoption of the plan to allow the public to review and comment on the proposed ECFS State plan.
- Administer the ECFS system in each ECFS district based on ECFS district plans.
- Develop ECFS district plans in collaboration with ECFS system partners and stakeholders.
- Establish ECFS district advisory councils pursuant to Iowa Code section 234A.3, which is established in the Bill.
- Coordinate the administration of each ECFS district plan with federal and State resources.
- Enter into contracts as necessary to perform activities and provide services, supports, and other resources in accordance with each ECFS district plan.
- Coordinate district activities with other State agencies and State-funded initiatives that support positive outcomes for children and families.
- Administer and distribute federal aid received and State appropriations, grants, and other moneys deposited into the ECFS System Fund, as created by the Bill.
- Oversee, provide technical assistance to, and monitor HHS contractors to ensure compliance with ECFS district plans.
- Maintain data collection and management information systems.
- Collect, maintain, monitor, analyze, and utilize information; engage in studies and analyses; and gather relevant statistics to understand emerging needs and deploy information, resources, and technical assistance in response.
- Adopt administrative rules to administer Iowa Code chapter 234A, as established by the Bill.
- Take any other actions that are necessary to execute the HHS's duties under Iowa Code chapter 234A, as established by the Bill, or maintain compliance with federal requirements.

5 23 with federal requirements.

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

5 26 a. Cooperate with any state agency, political subdivision,
5 27 or federal governmental agency to apply for grants.

5 28 b. Solicit and accept for use any gift of money, by will or
5 29 otherwise, and any grant of money or services from the federal
5 30 government, the state, a political subdivision of the state or
5 31 federal government, or a private source.

CODE: Permits the HHS to do the following to develop and administer the ECFS system:

- Cooperate with any State agency, political subdivision, or federal government agency to apply for grants.
- Solicit and accept for use any gift of money, by will or otherwise, and any grant of money or services from the federal government, the State, a political subdivision of the State or federal government, or a private source.

5 32 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION 234A.3 EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY
5 33 SERVICES DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCILS.

5 34 1. The department shall establish an early childhood
5 35 and family services district advisory council in each ECFS
6 1 district. The department shall develop policies and procedures
6 2 for the operational functions of each ECFS district advisory
6 3 council.

CODE: Requires the HHS to establish an ECFS district advisory council in each ECFS district. The HHS is required to develop policies and procedures for the operational functions of each ECFS district advisory council.

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

6 8 a. Elected public officials who currently hold office within
6 9 the ECFS district.

6 10 b. Individuals who have experience or expertise related to
6 11 health, education, domestic assault response, abuse response,
6 12 or community-based child abuse prevention.

6 13 c. Individuals who are representative of the populations
6 14 served in the ECFS district advisory council's ECFS district.

6 15 d. Individuals who represent the faith community or
6 16 community partners in the ECFS district advisory council's ECFS
6 17 district.

CODE: Establishes that an ECFS district advisory council consists of 10 members appointed by the HHS. Individuals eligible for appointment include but are not limited to the following:

- Elected public officials who currently hold office within the ECFS district.
- Individuals who have experience or expertise related to health, education, domestic assault response, abuse response, or community-based child abuse prevention.
- Representatives of the populations served in the ECFS district advisory council's ECFS district.
- Members of the faith community or community partners in the ECFS district advisory council's ECFS district.

6 18 3. An ECFS district advisory council shall do all of the
6 19 following:

6 20 a. Identify opportunities and address challenges based
6 21 on updates received from the department relating to the
6 22 implementation of the ECFS district plan for the ECFS district
6 23 advisory council's ECFS district.

CODE: Establishes required duties of an ECFS district advisory council.

6 24 b. Provide feedback to the department while the department
6 25 is developing ECFS system policies.

6 26 c. Advise the department on how to best provide families
6 27 access to primary prevention strategies, early intervention
6 28 strategies, and ongoing family and community resources
6 29 throughout the ECFS district advisory council's ECFS district.

6 30 4. An ECFS district advisory council shall perform the
6 31 duties required under this section regardless of whether any
6 32 seat on the ECFS district advisory council is vacant.

CODE: Requires an ECFS district advisory council to perform the duties required under Iowa Code section 234A, as established by the Bill, regardless of whether any seat on the ECFS district advisory council is vacant.

6 33 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION 234A.4 DATA COLLECTION AND USE.

6 34 1. The department shall perform all of the following actions
6 35 related to ECFS system data:

7 1 a. (1) Collect, maintain, monitor, analyze, and utilize
7 2 data, including but not limited to child welfare data, Medicaid
7 3 data, ECFS system data, and other data depicting the status of
7 4 children and families in the state, as necessary to issue cost
7 5 estimates for serving populations, make and receive payments,
7 6 conduct operations, and perform ECFS system activities.

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

7 11 (3) The department shall periodically assess the status of
7 12 the department's compliance with subparagraph (2) to ensure
7 13 that data collected and maintained by the department under this
7 14 paragraph is protected.

7 15 b. To the extent possible, establish a record for each
7 16 individual receiving publicly funded ECFS system services.
7 17 Each record established under this paragraph shall include a
7 18 unique client identifier for the purposes of identifying and
7 19 tracking the individual's record.

CODE: Requires the HHS, to the extent possible, to establish a record for each individual receiving publicly funded ECFS system services, including a unique client identifier.

7 20 c. Consult with department contractors and other ECFS system
7 21 stakeholders on an ongoing basis relating to the administration
7 22 of the ECFS system, including but not limited to reviewing
7 23 trends and outcomes as indicators for improving or modifying
7 24 administration of the ECFS system.

CODE: Requires the HHS to consult with HHS contractors and other ECFS system stakeholders on an ongoing basis related to the administration of the ECFS system, including but not limited to reviewing trends and outcomes.

7 25 d. Engage with entities that maintain information the
7 26 department is required to collect pursuant to this section to
7 27 integrate data relating to individuals receiving ECFS system
7 28 services.

CODE: Requires the HHS to engage with entities that maintain information the HHS is required to collect pursuant to Iowa Code section 234A, as established by the Bill, to integrate data relating to individuals receiving ECFS system services.

7 29 e. Engage with entities that maintain general population
7 30 data relating to the ECFS system to develop action plans,
7 31 create projections relating to a population's ECFS system
7 32 needs, develop ECFS system policies, and otherwise perform
7 33 activities as necessary to support families in achieving a
7 34 healthy, successful future.

CODE: Requires the HHS to engage with entities that maintain general population data relating to the ECFS system to develop action plans, create projections relating to a population's ECFS system needs, develop ECFS system policies, and otherwise perform activities as necessary to support families.

7 35 2. The department shall ensure that public and private
8 1 agencies, organizations, and individuals that operate within
8 2 the ECFS system use uniform methods to maintain statistical
8 3 information relating to ECFS system outcomes and performance.

CODE: Requires the HHS to ensure that public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals that operate within the ECFS system use uniform methods to maintain statistical information relating to ECFS system outcomes and performance.

8 4 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION 234A.5 HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAMS —
8 5 HOPES-HFI PROGRAM.

CODE: Permits the HHS to establish the Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success (HOPES) – Healthy Families Iowa (HFI) program to provide services to families and children during a child's prenatal through preschool years.

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

DETAIL: The HOPES-HFI program is currently established and required under Iowa Code section [135.106](#).

8 10 a. Promote optimal child health and development.

8 11 b. Improve family coping skills and functioning.

8 12 c. Promote positive parenting skills and intrafamilial
8 13 interaction.

8 14 d. Prevent child abuse, child neglect, infant mortality, and
8 15 infant morbidity.

8 16 2. The department shall administer the HOPES-HFI program,
8 17 in whole or in part, by contracting with local organizations
8 18 that use evidence-based home visiting models.

CODE: The HHS is required to administer the HOPES-HFI program, in whole or in part, by contracting with local organizations that use evidence-based home visiting models.

8 19 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION 234A.6 EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY
8 20 SERVICES SYSTEM FUND.

CODE: Establishes an ECFS System Fund in the State Treasury under the control of the HHS consisting of any

8 21 1. An early childhood and family services system fund
 8 22 is created in the state treasury under the control of the
 8 23 department and consisting of any moneys appropriated to the
 8 24 department for the ECFS system fund's purposes by the general
 8 25 assembly and any other moneys available and obtained or
 8 26 accepted by the department for deposit in the ECFS system fund.
 8 27 The ECFS system fund shall be used to implement and administer
 8 28 the ECFS system.

moneys appropriated to the HHS for the ECFS System Fund's purposes by the General Assembly and any other moneys available and obtained or accepted by the HHS for deposit in the ECFS System Fund. Requires the ECFS System Fund to be used to implement and administer the ECFS system.

8 29 2. Moneys in the ECFS system fund are appropriated to the
 8 30 department for the purposes of implementing and administering
 8 31 the ECFS system.

CODE: Appropriates moneys in the ECFS System Fund to the HHS for the purposes of implementing and administering the ECFS system.

8 32 3. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in
 8 33 this section that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the
 8 34 close of a fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain
 8 35 available for expenditure for the purposes designated.

CODE: Specifies that moneys appropriated in Iowa Code section 234A.6, as established by the Bill, that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of a fiscal year shall not revert but will remain available for expenditure for the purposes designated.

9 1 4. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or
 9 2 earnings on moneys in the ECFS system fund shall be credited
 9 3 to the ECFS system fund.

CODE: Establishes that interest or earnings on moneys in the ECFS System Fund will be credited to the Fund.

9 4 Sec. 7. REPEAL. Section 135.106, Code 2026, is repealed.

CODE: Repeals Iowa Code section [135.106](#) (Healthy Families Programs — HOPES-HFI Program).

9 5 Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. The section of this division of
 9 6 this Act enacting section 234A.6, being deemed of immediate
 9 7 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

Specifies that Section 6 of Division I enacting Iowa Code section 234A.6 relating to the ECFS System Fund takes effect upon enactment.

9 8 DIVISION II
 9 9 DECATEGORIZATION INITIATIVE

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

9 12 2. MEMBERSHIP.—~~The department may authorize the governance~~
 9 13 ~~boards of decategorization of child welfare and juvenile~~
 9 14 ~~justice funding projects established under section 232.188 to~~
 9 15 ~~appoint the transition committee membership and may utilize~~
 9 16 ~~the boundaries of decategorization projects to establish~~

CODE: Removes permission for the HHS to authorize the governance boards of decategorization of child welfare and juvenile justice funding projects established under Iowa Code section [232.188](#) to appoint the transition committee membership and to utilize the boundaries of decategorization projects to establish the service areas for transition committees.

9 17 ~~the service areas for transition committees. The committee~~
9 18 ~~A committee's~~ membership may include but is not limited to
9 19 department staff involved with foster care, child welfare,
9 20 and adult services, juvenile court services staff, staff
9 21 involved with county general assistance or emergency relief
9 22 under chapter 251 or 252, school district and area education
9 23 agency staff involved with special education, and a child's
9 24 court appointed special advocate, guardian ad litem, service
9 25 providers, and other persons knowledgeable about the child.

9 26 Sec. 10. Section 237A.1, subsection 2, paragraph j,
9 27 subparagraph (2), Code 2026, is amended by striking the
9 28 subparagraph.

CODE: Strikes Iowa Code section [237A.1\(2\)\(j\)\(2\)](#), which establishes that care, supervision, and guidance of a child at a structured program for the purpose of providing therapeutic, rehabilitative, or supervisory services to children under a contract approved by a governance board of a decategorization of child welfare and juvenile justice funding project are excluded from the definition of "child care" under Iowa Code chapter [237A](#) (Child Care Facilities).

9 29 Sec. 11. Section 249A.26, subsection 5, Code 2026, is
9 30 amended by striking the subsection.

CODE: Strikes Iowa Code section [249A.26\(5\)](#), which establishes that funding under the Medical Assistance program will be provided for case management services for eligible persons 17 years of age or younger residing in counties with child welfare decategorization projects, provided that these projects have included these persons in the service plan and the decategorization project county is willing to provide the nonfederal share of costs.

9 31 Sec. 12. Section 256I.4, subsection 6, Code 2026, is amended
9 32 by striking the subsection.

CODE: Strikes Iowa Code section [256I.4\(6\)](#), which requires the Early Childhood Iowa State Board to assist with the linkage of child welfare and juvenile justice decategorization projects with Early Childhood Iowa areas.

9 33 Sec. 13. REPEAL. Section 232.188, Code 2026, is repealed.

CODE: Repeals Iowa Code section [232.188](#) relating to the decategorization of child welfare and juvenile justice funding initiative.

FISCAL IMPACT: The HHS estimates that eliminating child welfare decategorization will have a cost savings to the HHS of \$1,700,000.

9 34 Sec. 14. DECATEGORIZATION CARRYOVER FUNDING.

9 35 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context
10 1 otherwise requires:

10 2 a. "Carryover funding" means unobligated or unencumbered
10 3 moneys described in section 232.188, subsection 5, paragraph
10 4 "b", Code 2026, at the close of the fiscal year beginning July
10 5 1, 2025.

10 6 b. "Decategorization initiative" means the services and
10 7 activities funded through a funding pool.

10 8 c. "Department" means the department of health and human
10 9 services.

10 10 d. "Funding pool" means the same as defined in section
10 11 232.188, Code 2026.

10 12 e. "Governance board" means the same as defined in section
10 13 232.188, Code 2026.

10 14 2. Carryover funding that remains in a funding pool at
10 15 the close of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, which
10 16 has been encumbered or obligated by the governance board for
10 17 a decategorization initiative or by contract beyond that
10 18 fiscal year, shall remain available for expenditure to ensure
10 19 continuation of such decategorization initiative or contract
10 20 until the close of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026,
10 21 or as otherwise agreed by the department and juvenile court
10 22 services after receiving input from appropriate stakeholders
10 23 under subsection 4.

10 24 3. Carryover funding that remains in a funding pool at
10 25 the end of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, which
10 26 remains unencumbered or unobligated by the governance board
10 27 for a decategorization initiative or contract at the close of
10 28 the fiscal year, shall be appropriated to the department and
10 29 juvenile court services proportionately based on the percentage
10 30 of moneys appropriated to each entity by the general assembly
10 31 for decategorization initiatives.

10 32 4. a. With input from appropriate stakeholders, the
10 33 department and juvenile court services shall identify each
10 34 contract funded through a funding pool impacted by this
10 35 division of this Act.

Establishes definitions for the following terms: "carryover funding," "decategorization project," "funding pool," and "governance board."

Permits carryover funding remaining in a funding pool operated by a decategorization project governance board at the close of FY 2026 that has been encumbered or obligated by the board for a multiyear service decategorization project to remain available for expenditure until the close of FY 2027 or as otherwise agreed by the HHS and Juvenile Court Services after receiving input from appropriate stakeholders.

Appropriates any unencumbered or unobligated carryover funding remaining in a funding pool operated by a decategorization project governance board at the close of FY 2026 to the HHS and Juvenile Court Services. Requires that moneys be appropriated proportionally based on the percentage of moneys appropriated to each entity by the General Assembly for decategorization initiatives.

Requires the HHS and Juvenile Court Services, with input from appropriate stakeholders, to identify each contract funded through a funding pool impacted by Division II of the Bill.

11 1 b. On or before January 1, 2027, the department or juvenile
 11 2 court services shall evaluate each contract identified under
 11 3 paragraph "a" to determine the following:
 11 4 (1) If permitted by the terms of a contract, whether the
 11 5 state should exercise the option to terminate the contract or
 11 6 continue the contract until the end of the current contract
 11 7 term.
 11 8 (2) If the option to terminate a contract is not permitted
 11 9 by the terms of the contract, whether the contract should be
 11 10 renewed or extended at the end of the current contract term.
 11 11 (3) Whether the department or juvenile court services
 11 12 should assume responsibility for a contract for the remainder
 11 13 of the current term of the contract, for the term of the
 11 14 renewed contract, or for the term of the extended contract to
 11 15 avoid service interruption.

Requires the HHS and Juvenile Court Services to evaluate each contract funded through a funding pool impacted by Division II of the Bill to determine the following on or before January 1, 2027:

- If permitted by the terms of the contract, whether the State should exercise the option to terminate the contract or continue the contract until the end of the current contract term.
- If the option to terminate a contract is not permitted by the terms of the contract, whether the contract should be renewed or extended at the end of the current contract term.
- Whether the HHS or Juvenile Court Services should assume responsibility for a contract for the remainder of the current term of the contract, for the term of the renewed contract, or for the term of the extended contract to avoid service interruption.

11 16 c. Unless otherwise provided under this section, a
 11 17 governance board or other entity shall not enter into a
 11 18 contract funded through a funding pool after the effective date
 11 19 of this section of this division of this Act if the term of the
 11 20 contract extends past, or the deliverables under the contract
 11 21 would be provided after, June 30, 2027.

Prohibits a governance board or other entity from entering into a contract funded through a funding pool after the effective date of this section of Division II if the term of the contract extends past, or the deliverables under the contract would be provided after, June 30, 2027.

11 22 Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATE. The section of this division of
 11 23 this Act related to decategorization carryover funding, being
 11 24 deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

Specifies that Section 14 of Division II related to decategorization carryover funding takes effect upon enactment.

11 25 Sec. 16. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. The section of this
 11 26 division of this Act related to decategorization carryover
 11 27 funding applies retroactively to July 1, 2025.

Specifies that Section 14 of Division II related to decategorization carryover funding applies retroactively to July 1, 2025.

11 28 DIVISION III
 11 29 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

11 30 Sec. 17. Section 144.13A, subsection 5, paragraph a, Code
 11 31 2026, is amended to read as follows:
 11 32 a. Ten dollars of each registration fee is appropriated and

CODE: Appropriates \$10 from each birth certificate registration fee to be used for child abuse prevention and removes the appropriation of \$10 from each birth certificate

11 33 shall be used for primary and secondary child abuse prevention
 11 34 programs pursuant to section 235A.1, and ten dollars of each
 11 35 registration fee is appropriated and shall be used for the
 12 1 congenital and inherited disorders central registry established
 12 2 pursuant to section 136A.6. Notwithstanding section 8.33,
 12 3 moneys appropriated in this paragraph that remain unencumbered
 12 4 or unobligated at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert
 12 5 but shall remain available for expenditure for the purposes
 12 6 designated until the close of the succeeding fiscal year, and
 12 7 shall not be transferred, used, obligated, appropriated, or
 12 8 otherwise encumbered except as provided in this paragraph.

registration fee to be used for primary and secondary child abuse prevention programs pursuant to Iowa Code section [235A.1](#). Specifies that moneys appropriated under Iowa Code section [144.13A\(5\)\(a\)](#) that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of the fiscal year will remain available for the purposes designated until the close of FY 2028 and will not be transferred, used, obligated, appropriated, or otherwise encumbered, except as provided under Iowa Code section [144.13A\(5\)\(a\)](#).

12 9 Sec. 18. Section 422.12K, Code 2026, is amended to read as
 12 10 follows:
 12 11 422.12K INCOME TAX CHECKOFF FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
 12 12 ~~PROGRAM FUND~~ .
 12 13 1. A person who files an individual or a joint income tax
 12 14 return with the department of revenue under section 422.13 may
 12 15 designate one dollar or more to be paid to the ~~child abuse~~
 12 16 ~~prevention program~~ early childhood and family services system
 12 17 fund created in section ~~235A.2~~ 234A.6, to be used for the
 12 18 purpose of child abuse prevention. If the refund due on the
 12 19 return or the payment remitted with the return is insufficient
 12 20 to pay the additional amount designated by the taxpayer to
 12 21 the ~~child abuse prevention program~~ early childhood and family
 12 22 services system fund, the amount designated shall be reduced to
 12 23 the remaining amount remitted with the return. The designation
 12 24 of a contribution to the ~~child abuse prevention program~~ early
 12 25 childhood and family services system fund under this section
 12 26 is irrevocable.

CODE: Permits a person who files an individual or a joint income tax return with the Department of Revenue to designate \$1 or more to be paid to the Early Childhood and Family Services System Fund to be used for the purpose of child abuse prevention instead of permitting designation of \$1 or more to be paid to the Child Abuse Prevention Program Fund.

12 27 2. The director of revenue shall draft the income tax form
 12 28 to allow the designation of contributions to the ~~child abuse~~
 12 29 ~~prevention program~~ early childhood and family services system
 12 30 fund on the tax return. The department of revenue, on or
 12 31 before January 31, shall transfer the total amount designated
 12 32 on the tax return forms due in the preceding calendar year to
 12 33 the ~~child abuse prevention program~~ early childhood and family
 12 34 services system fund. However, before a checkoff pursuant
 12 35 to this section shall be permitted, all liabilities on the
 13 1 books of the department and accounts identified as owing under
 13 2 section 421.65 shall be satisfied.

CODE: Changes the income tax form designations from the Child Abuse Prevention Program Fund to the Early Childhood and Family Services System Fund.

13 13 13 13 13	3. The department of health and human services may authorize payment of moneys from the child abuse prevention program <u>early childhood and family services system fund for the purpose of child abuse prevention</u> in accordance with section 235A.2 <u>234A.6</u> .	CODE: Permits the HHS to authorize the payments for child abuse prevention from the Early Childhood and Family Services System Fund.
13 13	4. The department of revenue shall adopt rules to administer this section.	CODE: Requires the Department of Revenue to adopt administrative rules to administer Iowa Code section 422.12K (Income Tax Checkoff for Child Abuse Prevention Program Fund).
13	5. This section is subject to repeal under section 422.12E.	CODE: Establishes that Iowa Code section 422.12K (Income Tax Checkoff for Child Abuse Prevention Program Fund) is subject to repeal under Iowa Code section 422.12E (Income Tax Return Checkoffs Limited — Notification of Repeal).
13 13	Sec. 19. REPEAL. Sections 235A.1, 235A.2, and 235A.3, Code 2026, are repealed.	CODE: Repeals Iowa Code sections 235A.1 (Child Abuse Prevention Program), 235A.2 (Child Abuse Prevention Program Fund), and 235A.3 (Child Abuse Prevention Program Advisory Committee).
13 13 13 13 13 13	Sec. 20. CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM FUND — TRANSFER OF MONEYS. Any unencumbered or unobligated moneys remaining in the child abuse prevention program fund created in section 235A.2, on June 30, 2026, shall be transferred to the early childhood and family services system fund created in section 234A.6, as enacted in this Act.	Transfers any unencumbered or unobligated moneys remaining in the Child Abuse Prevention Program Fund at the close of FY 2026 to the Early Childhood and Family Services System Fund created in Iowa Code section 234A.6, as established by the Bill. FISCAL IMPACT: As of April 13, 2026, the balance of the Child Abuse Prevention Program Fund is \$732,749.
13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13	Sec. 21. CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM — REVIEW OF CONTRACTS IMPACTED BY TRANSITION TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY SERVICES SYSTEM. With input from appropriate stakeholders, the department shall review the child abuse prevention program's contract for program administration and each grant project funded through the child abuse prevention program for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, impacted by this division of this Act. The department shall work with the child abuse prevention program's	Requires the HHS, with input from appropriate stakeholders, to review the Child Abuse Prevention program's contract for program administration and each grant project funded through the Child Abuse Prevention program for FY 2026 impacted by Division III of the Bill. The HHS is required to work with the Child Abuse Prevention program's program administrator, local child abuse stakeholders, and grant project recipients to transition the funding and child abuse

13 28 program administrator, local child abuse stakeholders, and
 13 29 grant project recipients to transition the funding and child
 13 30 abuse prevention administration and service delivery to the
 13 31 early childhood and family services system established in
 13 32 division I of this Act.

prevention administration and service delivery to the ECFS system.

13 33 Sec. 22. EFFECTIVE DATE. The section of this division of
 13 34 this Act relating to the review of contracts impacted by the
 13 35 transition of the child abuse prevention program to the early
 14 1 childhood and family services system, being deemed of immediate
 14 2 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

Specifies that Section 21 of Division III relating to the review of contracts impacted by the transition of the Child Abuse Prevention program to the ECFS system takes effect upon enactment.

14 3 Sec. 23. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. The section of this
 14 4 division of this Act relating to the review of contracts
 14 5 impacted by the transition of the child abuse prevention
 14 6 program to the early childhood and family services system
 14 7 applies retroactively to July 1, 2025.

Specifies that Section 21 of Division III relating to the review of contracts impacted by the transition of the Child Abuse Prevention program to the ECFS system applies retroactively to July 1, 2025.

14 8 DIVISION IV
 14 9 EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA INITIATIVE — HOME VISITING SERVICES
 14 10 ADMINISTRATION TRANSITION

14 11 Sec. 24. EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA INITIATIVE — HOME VISITING
 14 12 SERVICES ADMINISTRATION TRANSITION.

Establishes the following definitions related to the home visiting services administration transition for the ECI initiative: "department," "ECI area," "ECI area board," "ECI initiative," "ECFS system," and "transition period."

14 13 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context
 14 14 otherwise requires:

14 15 a. "Department" means the department of health and human
 14 16 services.

14 17 b. "Early childhood Iowa area" means the same as defined in
 14 18 section 256I.1.

14 19 c. "Early childhood Iowa area board" means the same as
 14 20 defined in section 256I.1.

14 21 d. "Early childhood Iowa initiative" means the same as
 14 22 described in section 256I.2.

14 23 e. "ECFS system" means the same as defined in section
 14 24 234A.1, as enacted in division I of this Act.

14 25 f. "Transition period" means the period beginning on the
 14 26 date of enactment of this division of this Act and concluding
 14 27 January 1, 2028.

14 28 2. During the transition period, the department shall
 14 29 develop and implement a plan to transfer administration of home
 14 30 visiting services currently funded by the early childhood Iowa

Requires the HHS to develop and implement a plan to transfer the administration of home visiting services currently

14 31	initiative to the ECFS system by the end of the transition	funded by the ECI initiative to the ECFS system by January
14 32	period. The plan to transfer the administration of home	1, 2028.
14 33	visiting services shall, at a minimum, include all of the	
14 34	following:	
14 35	a. The amount of funding expended through each early	Requires the amount of funding expended during the
15 1	childhood Iowa area and each early childhood Iowa area board	transition period through each ECI area and each ECI area
15 2	for home visiting services for which administration has not yet	board for home visiting services for which administration has
15 3	transferred to the ECFS system shall be no less than the amount	not yet been transferred to the ECFS system to be no less
15 4	expended through each early childhood Iowa area and each early	than the amount expended for the same services during
15 5	childhood Iowa area board for home visiting services during the	FY 2026.
15 6	fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.	
15 7	b. An amount of state funding equal to the aggregate amount	Requires an amount of State funding equal to the aggregate
15 8	of state funding expended during the fiscal year beginning	amount of State funding expended for FY 2026 by the ECI
15 9	July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, by the early childhood	initiative for home visiting services be available for
15 10	Iowa initiative for home visiting services shall be available	expenditure on home visiting services for families with
15 11	for expenditure on home visiting services for families with	children age five and under during the transition period.
15 12	children age five and under.	
15 13	c. With input from appropriate stakeholders, the department	Requires the HHS, with input from appropriate stakeholders,
15 14	shall identify each home visiting services contract under	identify each home visiting services contract under the
15 15	the purview of an early childhood Iowa area or an early	purview of an ECI area or an ECI area board. Requires the
15 16	childhood Iowa area board. Prior to the end of the transition	HHS to exercise the option to terminate each home visiting
15 17	period, the department shall, if permitted by the terms of	services contract prior to the end of the transition period, if
15 18	the contract, exercise the option to terminate each contract	permitted by the terms of the contract. In cases where the
15 19	identified under this paragraph. If a contract does not permit	contract does not permit early termination, the contract will
15 20	early termination of the contract, the contract shall be	be terminated at the end of the current term for the contract.
15 21	terminated at the end of the current term of the contract. A	Contracts will not be renewed or extended at the end of the
15 22	contract identified under this paragraph shall not be renewed	current contract term.
15 23	or extended at the end of the current contract term.	
15 24	d. All debts, claims, or other liabilities owed to an early	Requires that all debts, claims, or other liabilities owed to an
15 25	childhood Iowa area or an early childhood Iowa area board due	ECI area or an ECI area board due to home visiting services
15 26	to home visiting services provided or rendered pursuant to	provided or rendered pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 256I
15 27	chapter 256I shall remain due and owing after administration	(Early Childhood Iowa Initiative) remain due and owing after
15 28	of home visiting services is transferred to the ECFS system	administration of home visiting services are transferred to
15 29	and after the end of the transition period. Each fiscal agent	the ECFS system and after the end of the transition period.
15 30	contracted with an early childhood Iowa area board shall	Requires each fiscal agent contracted with an ECI area
15 31	collect outstanding debts, claims, or other liabilities owed	board to collect outstanding debts, claims, or other liabilities
15 32	to the early childhood Iowa area board or the early childhood	owed to the ECI area board or the ECI area board's ECI
15 33	Iowa area board's early childhood Iowa area for home visiting	area for home visiting services before the date the home

15 34 services rendered pursuant to chapter 256I before the date the
15 35 home visiting service was transferred to the ECFS system or
16 1 before the end of the transition period, whichever occurred
16 2 first.

visiting service was transferred to the ECFS system or before the end of the transition period, whichever first occurred.

16 3 e. An early childhood lowa area, an early childhood lowa
16 4 area board, an early childhood lowa area director, an agent of
16 5 an early childhood lowa area, an agent of an early childhood
16 6 lowa area board, or a subdivision of the state shall not enter
16 7 into, renew, or extend a home visiting services contract
16 8 related to the early childhood lowa initiative or related
16 9 activities if the term of the contract extends past, or the
16 10 deliverables under the contract would be provided after,
16 11 the date administration of the home visiting services is
16 12 transferred to the ECFS system or the end of the transition
16 13 period, whichever occurs first.

Prohibits an ECI area, an ECI area board, an ECI area director, an agent of an ECI area, an agent of an ECI area board, or a subdivision of the State from entering into, renewing, or extending a home visiting services contract related to the ECI initiative or related activities if any part of the contract extends past the date that administration of the home visiting services is transferred to the ECFS system or the end of the transition period, whichever occurs first.

16 14 f. The department shall ensure that individuals currently
16 15 receiving home visiting services provided through the early
16 16 childhood lowa initiative have uninterrupted continuity of care
16 17 during the transition period.

Requires the HHS to ensure that individuals currently receiving home visiting services provided through the ECI initiative have uninterrupted continuity of care during the transition period.

16 18 g. The department shall maintain ongoing communication
16 19 with, and provide a means to receive input from, each early
16 20 childhood lowa area board during the process to select home
16 21 visiting services providers in the early childhood lowa area
16 22 board's respective early childhood lowa area. The department
16 23 shall also ensure that each contract the department enters into
16 24 for home visiting services requires that the contracted home
16 25 visiting services provider inform each early childhood lowa
16 26 area board of an early childhood lowa area in which the home
16 27 visiting services provider will provide home visiting services.

Requires the HHS to maintain ongoing communication with each ECI area board during the process to select home visiting services providers in the ECI area board's respective ECI area. The HHS is required to ensure that each contract the HHS enters into for home visiting services requires that the contracted home visiting services provider inform each ECI area board of an ECI area in which the provider will provide home visiting services.

16 28 3. During and after the transfer of administration of home
16 29 visiting services to the ECFS system, and contingent upon the
16 30 department's receipt of additional federal funds for home
16 31 visiting services pursuant to the Social Security Act, Tit.
16 32 IV-E, the department shall annually redistribute through the
16 33 early childhood lowa initiative the following percentages,
16 34 up to seven million dollars, of the additional federal funds
16 35 received for coordination of early childhood services for
17 1 children from age zero through age five:

Requires the HHS during and after the transfer of the administration of home visiting services to the ECFS system, and contingent upon the receipt of additional federal funds for home visiting services pursuant to the [Social Security Act, Tit. IV-E](#), to annual redistribute through the ECI initiative the following percentages, up to \$7,000,000, of the additional federal funds received for coordination of early childhood services for children from age zero through age five:

17 2 a. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, and ending
 17 3 June 30, 2028, twenty-five percent.
 17 4 b. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2028, and ending
 17 5 June 30, 2029, fifteen percent.
 17 6 c. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2029, and ending
 17 7 June 30, 2030, five percent.

- FY 2028 = 25.00%.
- FY 2029 = 15.00%.
- FY 2030 = 5.00%.

17 8 DIVISION V
 17 9 EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA INITIATIVE — EVALUATION — REPORT

17 10 Sec. 25. EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA INITIATIVE — EVALUATION —
 17 11 REPORT.

Establishes the following definitions for Division V of the Bill:
 "department," "ECI initiative," "ECI State Board," and "ECFS
 system."

17 12 1. For purposes of this division, unless the context
 17 13 otherwise requires:
 17 14 a. "Department" means the department of health and human
 17 15 services.
 17 16 b. "Early childhood Iowa initiative" means the early
 17 17 childhood Iowa initiative described in section 256I.2.
 17 18 c. "Early childhood Iowa state board" means the same as
 17 19 defined in section 256I.1.
 17 20 d. "ECFS system" means the same as defined in section
 17 21 234A.1, as enacted in division I of this Act.

17 22 2. a. The department, in collaboration with the association
 17 23 of early childhood Iowa area boards and advocates, and
 17 24 the early childhood Iowa state board, shall evaluate the
 17 25 operational functions of the early childhood Iowa initiative
 17 26 and the feasibility and potential impacts of leveraging
 17 27 additional federal resources to inform recommendations to
 17 28 modernize early childhood Iowa initiative operations to
 17 29 support statewide prevention activities designed to strengthen
 17 30 families. The department shall provide administrative support
 17 31 for the evaluation by facilitating the collection and analysis
 17 32 of information and compiling a final report.

Requires the HHS, in collaboration with the Association of
 ECI Area Boards and Advocates (AECIABA) and the ECI
 State Board, to evaluate the operational functions of the ECI
 initiative and the feasibility and potential impacts of
 leveraging additional federal resources to inform
 recommendations to modernize ECI initiative operations.
 The HHS is required to provide administrative support for the
 evaluation by facilitating the collection and analysis of
 information and compiling a final report.

17 33 b. The department shall collect information through means
 17 34 including but not limited to work groups, focus groups, and
 17 35 surveys to accomplish all of the following:

Requires the HHS to collect information through means
 including but not limited to work groups, focus groups, and
 surveys to accomplish all of the following:

18 1 (1) Identify opportunities to modernize the early
 18 2 childhood Iowa initiative's operational functions including
 18 3 administration, financing, personnel, and reporting.
 18 4 (2) Evaluate the early childhood Iowa initiative's service

- Identify opportunities to modernize the ECI initiative's
 operational functions.

<p>18 5 access, quality, and coordination. 18 6 (3) Assess the fiscal and operational impacts to the early 18 7 childhood Iowa initiative using a new funding allocation 18 8 methodology. 18 9 (4) Assess the operational impacts on the department in 18 10 managing additional federal funding for early childhood and 18 11 family support services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the ECI initiative's service access, quality, and coordination. • Assess the fiscal and operational impacts to the ECI initiative using a new funding allocation methodology. • Assess the operational impacts on the HHS in managing additional federal funding for early childhood and family support services.
<p>18 12 c. The association of early childhood Iowa area boards 18 13 and advocates, and the early childhood Iowa state board, 18 14 shall review the final report compiled by the department 18 15 under paragraph "a" prior to the department submitting the 18 16 final report to the governor and the general assembly. The 18 17 department shall submit the final report to the governor and 18 18 the general assembly no later than February 5, 2027. The final 18 19 report shall include all of the following: 18 20 (1) A summary of the department's evaluation under 18 21 paragraph "a" and the findings from that evaluation. 18 22 (2) Recommended revisions to chapter 256I that address, at a 18 23 minimum, all of the following: 18 24 (a) Alignment and efficiencies. 18 25 (b) Operational functions including administration, 18 26 financing, personnel, and reporting. 18 27 (c) The relationship between the early childhood Iowa 18 28 initiative and the ECFS system. 18 29 (3) A transition plan for implementing the revisions 18 30 recommended under subparagraph (2) that maintains continuity of 18 31 service delivery.</p>	<p>Requires the AECIABA and the ECI State Board to review the final report compiled by the HHS prior to the HHS submitting the final report to the Governor and the General Assembly. The HHS is required to submit the final report to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than February 5, 2027. The report must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of the HHS's evaluation of the operational functions of the ECI initiative and the feasibility and potential impacts of leveraging additional federal resources to inform recommendations to modernize ECI initiative operations. • Recommended revisions of Iowa Code chapter 256I (Early Childhood Iowa Initiative). • A transition plan for implementing the revisions recommended for Iowa Code chapter 256I (Early Childhood Iowa Initiative) that maintains continuity of service delivery.
<p>18 32 DIVISION VI 18 33 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DISTRICTS</p>	
<p>18 34 Sec. 26. Section 217.1, Code 2026, is amended by adding the 18 35 following new subsection: 19 1 NEW SUBSECTION 4. "Health and human services district" or 19 2 "HHS district" means a geographic, multicounty area designated 19 3 by the department under section 217.1B for statewide program 19 4 and service delivery.</p>	<p>CODE: Establishes the definition for "health and human services districts" under Iowa Code chapter 217 (Department of Health and Human Services).</p>
<p>19 5 Sec. 27. NEW SECTION 217.1B HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES 19 6 DISTRICTS.</p>	<p>CODE: Requires the HHS to divide the entirety of the State into designated health and human services districts, with the</p>

19 7 1. The department shall divide the entirety of the state
 19 8 into designated health and human services districts. The
 19 9 initial HHS districts shall be the same as the behavioral
 19 10 health districts designated pursuant to section 225A.4, Code
 19 11 2026, and that exist on the effective date of this division
 19 12 of this Act. Beginning the calendar year that begins January
 19 13 1, 2032, and every ten consecutive calendar years thereafter,
 19 14 the department shall review the efficacy of the designated HHS
 19 15 districts in performing the HHS districts' functions during the
 19 16 immediately preceding ten consecutive calendar years.

initial districts being the same as the [Behavioral Health Districts](#) designated pursuant to Iowa Code section [225A.4](#) and that exist on the effective date of Division VI of the Bill.

19 17 2. a. The department may modify a designated HHS district.
 19 18 When modifying a designated HHS district, the department shall
 19 19 consider all of the following:
 19 20 (1) City and county boundaries.
 19 21 (2) The population size that can be effectively served in a
 19 22 specific area.
 19 23 (3) Areas of high need for services.
 19 24 (4) Patterns various populations exhibit when accessing or
 19 25 receiving services.

CODE: Permits the HHS to modify a designated health and human services district. When modifying a designated health and human services district, the HHS must consider all of the following:

- City and county boundaries.
- The population size that can be effectively served in a specific area.
- Areas of high need for services.
- Patterns various populations exhibit when accessing or receiving services.

19 26 b. Notwithstanding chapter 17A, the manner in which
 19 27 the modification of an HHS district is made, including the
 19 28 determination of boundaries for a modified HHS district, shall
 19 29 not be subject to judicial review.

CODE: Establishes that the manner in which the HHS modifies a designated health and human services district is not subject to judicial review.

19 30 3. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
 19 31 to administer this section.

CODE: Requires the HHS to adopt administrative rules to administer Iowa Code section 217.1B, as established by the Bill.

19 32 Sec. 28. CONTINGENT EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this
 19 33 Act takes effect July 1, 2026, unless the sections of 2026 Iowa
 19 34 Acts, LSB 5558 XD, or successor legislation, amending section
 19 35 217.1 and enacting section 217.1B are enacted on or before July
 20 1 1, 2026.

Specifies that Division VI of the Bill relating to health and human services districts is effective July 1, 2026, unless 2026 Iowa Acts, [HSB 622](#) (Health and Human Services Districts Bill), or successor legislation, is passed and enacted amending Iowa Code section [217.1](#) and enacting Iowa Code section 217.1B prior to July 1, 2026.

20 3 CONFORMING CHANGES

20 4 Sec. 29. Section 232.69, subsection 1, paragraph b,
 20 5 subparagraph (5), Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:
 20 6 (5) An employee or operator of a licensed child care center,
 20 7 registered child development home, head start program, family
 20 8 development and self-sufficiency grant program under section
 20 9 216A.107, or healthy opportunities for parents to experience
 20 10 success – healthy families Iowa program under section ~~435.406~~
 20 11 234A.5.

CODE: Conforming change.

20 12 Sec. 30. Section 237A.30, subsection 1, Code 2026, is
 20 13 amended to read as follows:

20 14 1. The department shall ~~work with the early childhood~~
 20 15 ~~Iowa program established in section 256I.5 in designing and~~
 20 16 ~~implementing~~ implement a voluntary quality rating system for
 20 17 each provider type of child care facility.

CODE: Removes the requirement for the HHS to work with the ECI program established in Iowa Code section [256I.5](#) in designating and implementing a voluntary quality rating system.

20 18 Sec. 31. Section 256I.13, subsection 1, Code 2026, is
 20 19 amended to read as follows:

20 20 1. In order to implement the legislative intent stated
 20 21 in ~~sections 435.406 and section 256I.9~~, that priority for
 20 22 family support program funding be given to programs using
 20 23 evidence-based or promising models for family support, it is
 20 24 the intent of the general assembly that ninety percent of state
 20 25 funds expended for family support programs shall be used for
 20 26 evidence-based or promising program models. The remaining ten
 20 27 percent of funds may be used for innovative program models that
 20 28 do not yet meet the definition of evidence-based or promising
 20 29 programs.

CODE: Conforming change.

20 30 DIVISION VIII
 20 31 CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVES

20 32 Sec. 32. CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVES. The Code editor is
 20 33 directed to do all of the following:
 20 34 1. Make changes in any Code sections amended or enacted
 20 35 by any other Act to correspond with the changes made in this
 21 1 Act if there appears to be no doubt as to the proper method of
 21 2 making the changes and the changes would not be contrary to or
 21 3 inconsistent with the purposes of this Act or any other Act.

CODE: Directs the Iowa Code Editor to make changes in any Iowa Code sections amended or enacted by any other Act to correspond with the changes made in the Bill if there appears to be no doubt as to the proper method of making the changes and the changes would not be contrary to or inconsistent with the purposes of the Bill or any other Bill.

21 4 2. Correct internal references in the Code and in enacted
21 5 legislation as necessary due to the enactment of this Act.

CODE: Directs the Iowa Code Editor to correct internal references in the Iowa Code and in enacted legislation as necessary due to the enactment of the Bill.