

Early Childhood and Family Service System Bill Senate File 2488

Last Action:

Final Action

May 2, 2026

An Act relating to early childhood and family services, including the creation of an early childhood and family services system, making appropriations, convening an Early Childhood Iowa interim study committee, 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 purpose 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 of age. 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 to 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 that 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 14, Line 22

Requires the HHS to convene a study committee during the 2026 Legislative Interim to review the most efficient means to transition home visiting services currently offered through an Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) area to a system based on districts created by the HHS and to implement the transition with minimal disruption to services. Page 17, Line 29

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY SERVICE SYSTEM BILL

Requires the HHS to cooperate with any formal request for data from the interim study committee and to redact all personal identifying information prior to submitting the requested data.

Page 19, Line 6

MAJOR INCREASES/DECREASES/TRANSFERS OF EXISTING PROGRAMS

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 ECFS 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 13, Line 12

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

Page 14, Line 16

Requires the HHS to develop and implement a plan to transfer the administration of an ECI area board's home visiting services to the ECFS system if requested by the ECI area board, and outlines what must be included in the plan.

Page 15, 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 annually redistribute among the ECI areas that made a request to transition the administration of home visiting services 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 17, Line 12

- 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

Allows moneys transferred and appropriated to the HHS and Juvenile Court Services to remain available to those entities to be used for child welfare and juvenile justice services until expended. Page 11, Line 29

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 12, Line 33

Required Reports

Requires the interim study committee to submit a final report with the committee's findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than January 8, 2027. In lieu of a final report, the interim study committee is permitted to submit a bill draft to the General Assembly with proposed changes to the Iowa Code based on the interim study committee's findings. Page 19, Line 11

Rules

Requires the HHS to adopt administrative rules to administer Iowa Code chapter 234A, as established by the Bill. Page 5, Line 19

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 Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success — Healthy Families Iowa (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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY SERVICE SYSTEM BILL

FISCAL IMPACT: The HHS estimates that eliminating child welfare decategorization will have an annual 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 12, Line 33

EFFECTIVE DATE

Specifies that Section 6 of Division I of the Bill 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 of the Bill related to decategorization funding and initiatives takes effect upon enactment and applies retroactively to July 1, 2025.

Page 12, Line 24

Specifies that Section 21 of Division III of the Bill 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 15, Line 1

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
12	33	17	Amend	144.13A.5.a
13	12	18	Amend	422.12K
14	14	19	Repeal	235A.1; 235A.2; 235A.3
19	19	26	Amend	232.69.1.b.(5)
19	27	27	Amend	237A.30.1
19	33	28	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 purpose 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 of age.

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 families 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 to 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's 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 moneys, by will or otherwise, and any grant of moneys 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.
- Representatives 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

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

6 23 advisory council's ECFS district.
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.3, 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.4, 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 of the Bill enacting Iowa Code section 234A.6 relating to the ECFS System Fund takes effect upon enactment.

9 8 DIVISION II
 9 9 DECATEGORY 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 requires that funding under the Medical Assistance program 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 (ECI) State Board to assist with the linkage of child welfare and juvenile justice decategorization projects with ECI 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 an annual cost savings to the HHS of \$1,700,000.

9 34 Sec. 14. DECATEGORIZATION FUNDING AND INITIATIVES.

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

10 13 (1) Moneys appropriated by the general assembly and
10 14 designated for a decategorization initiative.

10 15 (2) Moneys appropriated by the general assembly to the
10 16 department for child welfare and juvenile justice services and
10 17 designated for a decategorization initiative by the department.

10 18 (3) Moneys appropriated to juvenile court services for
10 19 juvenile justice programs and designated for a decategorization
10 20 initiative.

10 21 (4) Carryover funding.

10 22 e. "Funding pool" means the same as defined in section
10 23 232.188, Code 2026.

10 24 f. "Governance board" means the same as defined in section
10 25 232.188, Code 2026.

10 26 2. a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
10 27 funding that consists of moneys designated for decategorization
10 28 initiatives and transferred to a funding pool by the department
10 29 that remains in a funding pool at the close of the fiscal year
10 30 beginning July 1, 2025, that has been encumbered or obligated
10 31 by the governance board for a decategorization initiative or
10 32 by contract beyond the end of that fiscal year, shall remain
10 33 available for expenditure to ensure continuation of such
10 34 decategorization initiative or contract until the close of the
10 35 succeeding fiscal year, unless otherwise determined by the
11 1 department under subsection 5.

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

Permits funding designated for decategorization initiatives and transferred to a funding pool by the HHS that remains in a funding pool at the close of FY 2026 that has been encumbered or obligated by a governance board for a multiyear service decategorization initiative or by contract beyond the end of FY 2026 to remain available for expenditure to ensure the continuation of the decategorization initiative or contract until the close of FY 2027, unless otherwise determined by the HHS.

11 2 b. Any encumbered or obligated moneys remaining in a funding
11 3 pool as specified in paragraph "a" at the close of the fiscal
11 4 year that begins July 1, 2026, which are not encumbered or
11 5 obligated by the department as determined under subsection 5
11 6 shall be transferred and appropriated to the department.

Appropriates to the HHS any encumbered or obligated moneys remaining in a funding pool that are not encumbered or obligated by the HHS at the close of FY 2027.

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

Requires Juvenile Court Services to terminate all decategorization initiative contracts funded through moneys designated for decategorization initiative and transferred to a funding pool by Juvenile Court Services at the close of FY 2026, and to not renew or extend such contracts.

11 14 b. Moneys encumbered or obligated under a contract
11 15 terminated under this subsection that remain in a funding pool
11 16 at the close of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, shall
11 17 be transferred and appropriated to juvenile court services.

Requires moneys encumbered or obligated by a contract terminated by Juvenile Court Services that remain in a funding pool at the close of FY 2026 to be transferred and appropriated to Juvenile Court Services.

11 18 4. a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the
11 19 contrary, moneys that remain in a funding pool at the end of
11 20 the fiscal year that began July 1, 2025, that are unencumbered
11 21 or unobligated by the governance board for a decategorization
11 22 initiative or by contract at the close of the fiscal year,
11 23 shall be transferred and appropriated to the department and
11 24 juvenile court services proportionately based on the percentage
11 25 of moneys designated for decategorization initiatives and
11 26 transferred to funding pools by each entity for each fiscal
11 27 year for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2020, and ending
11 28 June 30, 2026.

Appropriates any moneys remaining in a funding pool that are unencumbered or unobligated by the governance board for a decategorization initiative or by contract at the end of FY 2026 to the HHS and Juvenile Court Services. Requires that moneys be appropriated proportionally based on the percentage of moneys designated for decategorization initiatives and transferred to funding pools by each entity for each fiscal year beginning FY 2021 and ending FY 2026.

11 29 b. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary
11 30 including section 8.33, moneys transferred and appropriated
11 31 to the department and juvenile court services under this
11 32 subsection shall not revert but shall remain available to those
11 33 entities to be used for child welfare and juvenile justice
11 34 services until expended.

CODE: Allows moneys transferred and appropriated to the HHS and Juvenile Court Services to remain available to those entities to be used for child welfare and juvenile justice services until expended.

12 33 Sec. 17. Section 144.13A, subsection 5, paragraph a, Code
 12 34 2026, is amended to read as follows:
 12 35 a. Ten dollars of each registration fee is appropriated and
 13 1 shall be used for ~~primary and secondary~~ child abuse prevention
 13 2 ~~programs pursuant to section 235A.1~~, and ten dollars of each
 13 3 registration fee is appropriated and shall be used for the
 13 4 congenital and inherited disorders central registry established
 13 5 pursuant to section 136A.6. Notwithstanding section 8.33,
 13 6 moneys appropriated in this paragraph that remain unencumbered
 13 7 or unobligated at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert
 13 8 but shall remain available for expenditure for the purposes
 13 9 designated until the close of the succeeding fiscal year, and
 13 10 shall not be transferred, used, obligated, appropriated, or
 13 11 otherwise encumbered except as provided in this paragraph.

CODE: Appropriates \$10 from each birth certificate registration fee to be used for child abuse prevention instead of 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\(5\)\(a\)](#).

13 12 Sec. 18. Section 422.12K, Code 2026, is amended to read as
 13 13 follows:
 13 14 422.12K INCOME TAX CHECKOFF FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
 13 15 ~~PROGRAM FUND~~ .
 13 16 1. A person who files an individual or a joint income tax
 13 17 return with the department of revenue under section 422.13 may
 13 18 designate one dollar or more to be paid to the ~~child abuse~~
 13 19 ~~prevention program~~ early childhood and family services system
 13 20 fund created in section 235A.2 234A.6, to be used for the
 13 21 purpose of child abuse prevention. If the refund due on the
 13 22 return or the payment remitted with the return is insufficient
 13 23 to pay the additional amount designated by the taxpayer to
 13 24 the ~~child abuse prevention program~~ early childhood and family
 13 25 services system fund, the amount designated shall be reduced to
 13 26 the remaining amount remitted with the return. The designation
 13 27 of a contribution to the ~~child abuse prevention program~~ early
 13 28 childhood and family services system fund under this section
 13 29 is irrevocable.
 13 30 2. The director of revenue shall draft the income tax form
 13 31 to allow the designation of contributions to the ~~child abuse~~
 13 32 ~~prevention program~~ early childhood and family services system
 13 33 fund on the tax return. The department of revenue, on or
 13 34 before January 31, shall transfer the total amount designated
 13 35 on the tax return forms due in the preceding calendar year to
 14 1 the ~~child abuse prevention program~~ early childhood and family
 14 2 services system fund. However, before a checkoff pursuant

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

14 3 to this section shall be permitted, all liabilities on the
14 4 books of the department and accounts identified as owing under
14 5 section 421.65 shall be satisfied.
14 6 3. The department of health and human services may authorize
14 7 payment of moneys from the ~~child abuse prevention program~~ early
14 8 childhood and family services system fund for the purpose
14 9 of child abuse prevention in accordance with section ~~235A.2~~
14 10 ~~234A.6~~.
14 11 4. The department of revenue shall adopt rules to administer
14 12 this section.
14 13 5. This section is subject to repeal under section 422.12E.

14 14 Sec. 19. REPEAL. Sections 235A.1, 235A.2, and 235A.3, Code
14 15 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).

14 16 Sec. 20. CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM FUND — TRANSFER
14 17 OF MONEYS. Any unencumbered or unobligated moneys remaining
14 18 in the child abuse prevention program fund created in section
14 19 235A.2, on June 30, 2026, shall be transferred to the early
14 20 childhood and family services system fund created in section
14 21 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 ECFS System Fund created in Iowa Code section 234A.6, as established by the Bill.

FISCAL IMPACT: As of May 13, 2026, the balance of the Child Abuse Prevention Program Fund was \$734,491.

14 22 Sec. 21. CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM — REVIEW OF
14 23 CONTRACTS IMPACTED BY TRANSITION TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD
14 24 AND FAMILY SERVICES SYSTEM. With input from appropriate
14 25 stakeholders, the department shall review the child abuse
14 26 prevention program's contract for program administration and
14 27 each grant project funded through the child abuse prevention
14 28 program for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
14 29 June 30, 2026, impacted by this division of this Act. The
14 30 department shall work with the child abuse prevention program's
14 31 program administrator, local child abuse stakeholders, and
14 32 grant project recipients to transition the funding and child
14 33 abuse prevention administration and service delivery to the
14 34 early childhood and family services system established in
14 35 division I of this Act.

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.

15 1 Sec. 22. EFFECTIVE DATE. The section of this division of
 15 2 this Act relating to the review of contracts impacted by the
 15 3 transition of the child abuse prevention program to the early
 15 4 childhood and family services system, being deemed of immediate
 15 5 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

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

15 6 Sec. 23. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. The section of this
 15 7 division of this Act relating to the review of contracts
 15 8 impacted by the transition of the child abuse prevention
 15 9 program to the early childhood and family services system
 15 10 applies retroactively to July 1, 2025.

Specifies that Section 21 of Division III of the Bill 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.

15 11 DIVISION IV
 15 12 EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA INITIATIVE — EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY
 15 13 SERVICES

15 14 Sec. 24. EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA INITIATIVE — EARLY CHILDHOOD
 15 15 AND FAMILY SERVICES.

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

15 16 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context
 15 17 otherwise requires:

15 18 a. "Department" means the department of health and human
 15 19 services.

15 20 b. "Early childhood Iowa area" means the same as defined in
 15 21 section 256I.1.

15 22 c. "Early childhood Iowa area board" means the same as
 15 23 defined in section 256I.1.

15 24 d. "Early childhood Iowa initiative" means the same as
 15 25 described in section 256I.2.

15 26 e. "ECFS system" means the same as defined in section
 15 27 234A.1, as enacted in division I of this Act.

15 28 2. If the department receives a request from an early
 15 29 childhood Iowa area board to transition administration of home
 15 30 visiting services to the ECFS system, the department shall
 15 31 develop and implement a plan to facilitate the transfer. The
 15 32 department's plan shall, at a minimum, include all of the
 15 33 following:

Requires the HHS to develop and implement a plan to transfer the administration of an ECI area board's home visiting services to the ECFS system if requested by the ECI area board.

15 34 a. With input from appropriate stakeholders, the department
 15 35 shall identify each current home visiting services contract
 16 1 executed by the early childhood Iowa area board requesting the
 16 2 transfer of administration of home visiting services. The

Requires the HHS, with input from appropriate stakeholders, to identify each current home visiting services contract executed by the ECI area board requesting the transfer of administration of home visiting services. Requires the ECI

16 3 early childhood IowA area board shall, if permitted by the
16 4 terms of a contract, exercise the option to terminate the
16 5 contract. If a contract does not permit early termination, the
16 6 contract shall be terminated at the end of the current term of
16 7 the contract. A contract identified under this paragraph shall
16 8 not be renewed or extended at the end of the current contract
16 9 term.

area board to exercise the option to terminate the home visiting services contract, if permitted by the terms of the contract. In cases where the contract does not permit early termination, the contract will be terminated at the end of the current term for the contract. Contracts will not be renewed or extended at the end of the current contract term.

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

Requires that all debts, claims, or other liabilities owed to an ECI area or an ECI area board due to home visiting services provided or rendered pursuant to IowA Code chapter [256I](#) (Early Childhood IowA Initiative) remain due and owing after administration of home visiting services are transferred to the ECFS system. Requires each fiscal agent contracted with an ECI area board to collect outstanding debts, claims, or other liabilities.

16 19 c. An early childhood IowA area board or an agent of an
16 20 early childhood IowA area board shall not enter into, renew, or
16 21 extend a home visiting services contract related to the early
16 22 childhood IowA initiative or related activities if the term
16 23 of the contract extends past, or the deliverables under the
16 24 contract would be provided after, the date administration of
16 25 the home visiting services is transferred to the ECFS system.

Prohibits an ECI area board or an agent of an ECI area board from entering into, renewing, or extending a home visiting services contract related to the ECI initiative or related activities if the term of the contract extends past, or the deliverables under the contract would be provided after, the date that administration of the home visiting services is transferred to the ECFS system.

16 26 d. The department shall ensure that individuals currently
16 27 receiving home visiting services provided through the early
16 28 childhood IowA initiative by the early childhood IowA area
16 29 board requesting the transfer of administration of home
16 30 visiting services have uninterrupted continuity of care during
16 31 the transition.

Requires the HHS to ensure that individuals currently receiving home visiting services provided through the ECI initiative by the ECI area board requesting the transfer of administration of home visiting services have uninterrupted continuity of care during the transition.

16 32 e. The department shall maintain ongoing communication
16 33 with, and provide a means to receive input from, the early
16 34 childhood IowA area board requesting the transfer of
16 35 administration of home visiting services during the selection
17 1 process for home visiting services providers in the early
17 2 childhood IowA area board's early childhood IowA area. The
17 3 department shall collaborate with the director of the early
17 4 childhood IowA area board when selecting a home visiting
17 5 services provider. The department shall ensure that each

Requires the HHS to maintain ongoing communication with the ECI area board requesting the transition of administration of home visiting services during the process to select home visiting services providers in the ECI area board's respective ECI area. The HHS is required to collaborate with the director of the ECI area board when selecting a home visiting services provider. The HHS is required to ensure that each contract the HHS enters into for home visiting services requires that the contracted home

17 6 contract the department enters into for home visiting services
 17 7 requires that the contracted home visiting services provider
 17 8 inform the early childhood iowa area board that the home
 17 9 visiting services provider will provide home visiting services
 17 10 in the early childhood iowa area board's early childhood iowa
 17 11 area.

visiting services provider inform each ECI area board of an ECI area in which the provider will provide home visiting services.

17 12 3. During and after the transfer of administration of home
 17 13 visiting services to the ECFS system, and contingent upon the
 17 14 department's receipt of additional federal funds for home
 17 15 visiting services pursuant to the Social Security Act, Tit.
 17 16 IV-E, the department shall annually redistribute among all
 17 17 early childhood iowa areas that made a request under subsection
 17 18 2 the following percentages of the additional federal funds
 17 19 received for coordination of early childhood services for
 17 20 children from age zero through age five:
 17 21 a. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, and ending
 17 22 June 30, 2028, twenty-five percent.
 17 23 b. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2028, and ending
 17 24 June 30, 2029, fifteen percent.
 17 25 c. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2029, and ending
 17 26 June 30, 2030, five percent.

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 annually redistribute among the ECI areas that made a request to transition the administration of home visiting services 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:

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

17 27 DIVISION V
 17 28 EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

17 29 Sec. 25. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL — EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA
 17 30 INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE.

17 31 1. The legislative council shall convene a study committee
 17 32 during the 2026 legislative interim to review the most
 17 33 efficient means to transition home visiting services offered
 17 34 through an early childhood iowa area, as that term is defined
 17 35 in section 256I.1, to another system based on districts created
 18 1 by the department of health and human services and to implement
 18 2 the transition with minimal disruption to home visitation
 18 3 services. At a minimum, the study committee shall review all
 18 4 of the following:
 18 5 a. The financial and logistical consequences to the early
 18 6 childhood iowa system and home visitation services.
 18 7 b. The effects on statewide access to services currently
 18 8 provided through early childhood iowa, including but not
 18 9 limited to the quality of services and the coordination between

Requires the HHS to convene a study committee during the 2026 Legislative Interim to review the most efficient means to transition home visiting services currently offered through an ECI area to a system based on districts created by the HHS and to implement the transition with minimal disruption to services. The study committee must review all of the following:

- Consequences to the ECI system and home visitation.
- Effects on statewide access to services currently provided through ECI.
- Impact on rural and underserved communities.
- Possible courses of action to transition home visitation services to ensure the ECI system remains viable and effective in the long term.

18 10 providers and the department.

18 11 c. The impact on rural and underserved communities.

18 12 d. Possible courses of action to transition home visitation

18 13 services to ensure the early childhood Iowa system remains

18 14 viable and effective in the long term.

18 15 2. a. The study committee's voting members shall consist
18 16 of the following:

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

18 19 (2) One member of the senate appointed by the senate
18 20 minority leader.

18 21 (3) Two members of the house of representatives appointed
18 22 by the house majority leader.

18 23 (4) One member of the house of representatives appointed by
18 24 the house minority leader.

18 25 b. The study committee's nonvoting members shall consist of
18 26 the following:

18 27 (1) Two members of the association of early childhood Iowa
18 28 area boards and advocates appointed by the association of early
18 29 childhood Iowa area boards and advocates.

18 30 (2) Two early childhood Iowa stakeholders appointed by the
18 31 association of early childhood Iowa area boards and advocates.

18 32 (3) Two persons with relevant expertise appointed by the
18 33 association of early childhood Iowa area boards and advocates.

18 34 (4) Two representatives of the department of health and
18 35 human services.

19 1 (5) One representative of the department of education.

19 2 (6) One representative of the department of workforce
19 3 development.

19 4 (7) One representative of the economic development
19 5 authority.

19 6 3. The department of health and human services shall
19 7 cooperate with any formal request for data from the study
19 8 committee. All personal identifying information shall be
19 9 redacted prior to submitting the requested data to the study
19 10 committee.

Requires the interim study committee's voting members to consist of the following:

- Two members of the Senate appointed by the Senate majority leader.
- One member of the Senate appointed by the Senate minority leader.
- Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the House majority leader.
- One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the House minority leader.

Requires the interim study committee's nonvoting members to consist of the following:

- Two members of the Association of Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards and Advocates (AECIABA) appointed by the AECIABA.
- Two ECI stakeholders appointed by the AECIABA.
- Two persons with relevant expertise appointed by the AECIABA.
- Two representatives from the HHS.
- One representative from the Department of Education.
- One representative from Iowa Workforce Development.
- One representative of the Economic Development Authority.

Requires the HHS to cooperate with any formal request for data from the interim study committee and to redact all personal identifying information prior to submitting the requested data.

19 11 4. The study committee shall submit a final report with the
19 12 study committee's findings and recommendations to the general
19 13 assembly no later than January 8, 2027. In lieu of a final
19 14 report, the study committee may submit a bill draft to the
19 15 general assembly with proposed changes to the Code based on the
19 16 study committee's findings.

Requires the interim study committee to submit a final report with the committee's findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than January 8, 2027. In lieu of a final report, the interim study committee is permitted to submit a bill draft to the General Assembly with proposed changes to the Iowa Code based on the interim study committee's findings.

19 17 DIVISION VI
19 18 CONFORMING CHANGES

19 19 Sec. 26. Section 232.69, subsection 1, paragraph b,
19 20 subparagraph (5), Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:
19 21 (5) An employee or operator of a licensed child care center,
19 22 registered child development home, head start program, family
19 23 development and self-sufficiency grant program under section
19 24 216A.107, or healthy opportunities for parents to experience
19 25 success – healthy families Iowa program under section ~~135.106~~
19 26 234A.5.

CODE: Conforming change.

19 27 Sec. 27. Section 237A.30, subsection 1, Code 2026, is
19 28 amended to read as follows:
19 29 1. The department shall ~~work with the early childhood~~
19 30 ~~Iowa program established in section 256I.5 in designing and~~
19 31 ~~implementing~~ implement a voluntary quality rating system for
19 32 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.

19 33 Sec. 28. Section 256I.13, subsection 1, Code 2026, is
19 34 amended to read as follows:
19 35 1. In order to implement the legislative intent stated
20 1 in ~~sections 135.106 and section~~ section 256I.9, that priority for
20 2 family support program funding be given to programs using
20 3 evidence-based or promising models for family support, it is
20 4 the intent of the general assembly that ninety percent of state
20 5 funds expended for family support programs shall be used for
20 6 evidence-based or promising program models. The remaining ten
20 7 percent of funds may be used for innovative program models that
20 8 do not yet meet the definition of evidence-based or promising
20 9 programs.

CODE: Conforming change.

20 10 DIVISION VII

20 11 CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVES

20 12 Sec. 29. CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVES. The Code editor is
20 13 directed to do all of the following:
20 14 1. Make changes in any Code sections amended or enacted
20 15 by any other Act to correspond with the changes made in this
20 16 Act if there appears to be no doubt as to the proper method of
20 17 making the changes and the changes would not be contrary to or
20 18 inconsistent with the purposes of this Act or any other Act.

20 19 2. Correct internal references in the Code and in enacted
20 20 legislation as necessary due to the enactment of this 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.

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.