SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 1232

(SENATE AUTHORS: WIKLUND, Mitchell and Pha)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/10/2025	339	Introduction and first reading Referred to Health and Human Services
02/24/2025	492	Author added Mitchell
03/17/2025	873	Author added Pha See First Special Session, HF2

A bill for an act

relating to child care; modifying the modernization of family child care regulations; amending Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 7, article 2, section 81.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 7, article 2, section 81, is amended to read:

Sec. 81. **FAMILY CHILD CARE REGULATION MODERNIZATION.**

(a) The commissioner of ~~human services shall~~ children, youth, and families must contract with an experienced and independent organization or individual consultant, other than the National Association for Regulatory Administration, to conduct the work outlined in this section. ~~If practicable, the commissioner must contract with the National Association for Regulatory Administration.~~

(b) The consultant must develop a proposal for updated family child care licensing standards and solicit input from stakeholders as described in paragraph (d). The proposed new standards must protect the health and safety of children in family child care programs and be child centered, family friendly, and fair to providers.

(c) The consultant must work with stakeholders and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, as described in paragraph (d), to develop a proposal for a risk-based model for monitoring compliance with family child care licensing standards~~, grounded in national regulatory best practices~~. Violations in the new model must be weighted to reflect the potential risk they pose to children's health and safety, and licensing sanctions must be tied

to the potential risk. ~~The proposed new model must protect the health and safety of children in family child care programs and be child-centered, family-friendly, and fair to providers.~~

(d) The consultant ~~shall~~ must develop and implement a stakeholder engagement process that solicits input from parents, licensed family child care providers, county licensors, staff of the Department of ~~Human Services~~ Children, Youth, and Families, and experts in child development about licensing standards, tiers for violations of the standards based on the potential risk of harm that each violation poses, and licensing sanctions for each tier. The consultant and commissioner must engage with working groups of licensed family child care providers at least five times throughout the stakeholder engagement process.

(e) The consultant ~~shall~~ must solicit input from ~~parents,~~ licensed family child care providers, county licensors, and staff of the Department of ~~Human Services~~ Children, Youth, and Families about which family child care providers should be eligible for abbreviated inspections that predict compliance with other licensing standards for licensed family child care providers ~~using key indicators previously identified by an empirically based statistical methodology developed by the National Association for Regulatory Administration and the Research Institute for Key Indicators~~.

(f) No later than February 1, ~~2024~~ 2026, the commissioner ~~shall~~ must submit a report and proposed legislation required to implement the new licensing model and the new licensing standards to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over child care regulation.

(g) The proposals developed under paragraphs (b) and (c), any documents used in the stakeholder engagement process under paragraph (d) or when soliciting input under paragraph (e), and the report required under paragraph (f) must also be made available in Hmong, Korean, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

(h) The updated family child care licensing standards proposed under paragraph (b) and the risk-based model for monitoring compliance with family child care licensing standards proposed under paragraph (c) must not be implemented any earlier than January 1, 2027.