
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires the State Board of Education to establish standards for the Child and Adult Care Food Program. As part of the development of standards for participation in the Program, the bill requires a system to approve youth development centers that are not required to be licensed as child day-care centers. The new facility approval guidelines must be established within 30 days of the bill's effective date.

The bill addresses two issues with regard to the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Recently the U.S. Department of Agriculture determined that approved centers that were not currently day-care centers would need to be licensed as day-care facility after October 1, 1997 in order to continue participation in the program. The development of the approval criteria for youth development centers allows non day-care youth facilities to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program without day-care licensure. Secondly, the approval of facilities will be transferred to the Department of Education, which administers the program at the state level.

Currently, the Department of Human Services is responsible for the approving the youth development centers that are not licensed as day-care centers for the Child and Adult Care Program. As part of the approval requirements, the Department of Human Services must visit the site twice a year. These sites also receive an annual on-site visit from the Ohio Department of Education as part of administrative oversight of the Child and Adult Care Food Program within Head Start. Thus, the on-site providers receive three state visitations annually from two different agencies in order to comply with the federal program. This bill exempts these centers from licensure by the Department of Human Services. Presumably this will remove that department from any oversight and ultimately reduce costs.

Fiscal Effects

Under the proposed changes, the Department of Education would still be required to perform the two on-site visits annually, as part of the approval process, but the funding visitation would be combined with one of the two other required visitations. Therefore the youth development centers would receive one less required state visitation per year. The Department of Human Services would no longer be involved in the licensure of non-day care facilities in this situation. The overall effect eliminates the duplication of administration and streamlines the process for the Department of Education as well as the fund recipients.

The fiscal impact of the bill is minimal. The Department of Human Services will decrease expenditures as a result of no longer approving non day-care facilities for this federal program. Overall expenditures will decrease because the Child and Adult Care Food program compliance will be contained within the State Department of Education.

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