

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1054

Hearing Date: Thursday February 08, 2024
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Walz
One Liner: Adopt the Child Care Safety and Security Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Ballard, Cavanaugh, M., Hansen, Hardin, Riepe, Walz, Day
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Lynne Walz
Genna Faulkner
Suzanne Schneider
Tina Rockenbach
Mitchell Clark

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Self
Lincoln Littles
Community Action of Nebraska
First Five Nebraska

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 1054 would create the Child Care Safety and Security Fund for the Department of Education to award grants to child care centers for training and materials related to safety and reunification procedures. Additionally, there is intent language to appropriate \$300,000 from the cash reserve.

SECTION BY SECTION SUMMARY:

Sec. 1: Sections 1 to 7 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Child Care Safety and Security Act

Sec. 2: The Legislature finds that the safety and security of children in child care and early education programs warrants the need for emergency preparedness for, and response to, weather events, fires, intruders, accidents, and other threats to a child's safety. It is necessary that standards for emergency preparedness and response for child care and early education programs be aligned



with such standards in elementary and secondary schools.

Sec. 3: Definitions: (1) Child care and early education program means a program licensed under the Child Care Licensing Act and which operates as a for-profit or nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the federal Head Start program, and the Early Head Start program

(2) Early childhood support agency means an organization that provides support services to a child care and early education program.

(3) Emergency response notification system means an electronic system that can deliver alerts or other notifications during an emergency to a targeted group of subscribers.

(4) Designee means a public school district, city or village, local public health department, law enforcement agency, early childhood support agency, or local emergency management agency that enters into a memorandum of understanding as described in section 5 of this act; and

(5) Safety and reunification procedure means a standard which is approved by the State Department of Education for the purpose of emergency preparedness and response.

Sec. 4: The Cash Fund is administered by the Dept of Ed. Grants will be awarded subject to availability to child care centers for emergency response notification systems, training and materials related to safety and reunification procedures. Intent of the Legislature to appropriate \$300,000 from the Cash Reserve Fund.

Sec. 5: An ESU may apply for entities within its boundaries using forms in the manner described by the Dept for entities.

A designee is assigned, through a memorandum of understanding, to administer the emergency response notification system for child care and early education programs that opt into the notification system within a defined geographic area. Such defined geographic area shall allow the designee to reasonably respond to local area emergencies. Other programs not required to be licensed under the Child Care Licensing Act within the defined geographic area may subscribe to the emergency response notification system. Funding amounts for designees under this subdivision shall not exceed \$1,000 per year.

A security and safety plan, as approved by the department, has been provided by the designee which shall operate the emergency notification system. Such security and safety plan shall include information on a community response team to provide for reunification procedures.

A designee is assigned, through a memorandum of understanding, to distribute safety and reunification procedure materials for use in facilities that care for children in child care and early education programs. Funding amounts for designees under this subdivision shall not exceed \$1,000 per year.

A designee is assigned, through a memorandum of understanding, to coordinate, administer, or provide for safety and reunification procedure training to child care and early education programs including, but not limited to, administrators, staff, children, and parents. Funding amounts for designees under this subdivision shall not exceed \$1,000 per year

Sec. 6: On or before December 1 of each year, the State Department of Education shall provide a report electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature which shall include: Number of centers that received grants, the type of center, the number of children served, how the grants were used, location of the centers, the number of centers denied grants, and any other information required by the department. The report shall not identify any child care and early education program.

Sec. 7: The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the



Explanation of amendments:

The standing committee amendment clarifies that the Commissioner of Education would be the one required to submit the report referenced on page 4 of LB 1054.

Ben Hansen, Chairperson

