

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 351

FINAL READING

Introduced by Linehan, 39.

Read first time January 13, 2021

Committee: Health and Human Services

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act; to
- 2 amend section 71-1958, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to
- 3 change provisions relating to quality scale ratings as prescribed;
- 4 and to repeal the original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 71-1958, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 71-1958 (1) Quality rating criteria shall be used as provided in
4 this section to assign a quality scale rating to each applicable child
5 care or early childhood education program if the program applies under
6 section 71-1957 to participate in the quality rating and improvement
7 system developed pursuant to section 71-1955.

8 (2) Licensure under the Child Care Licensing Act for a program which
9 serves children from birth to kindergarten-entrance age shall be
10 sufficient criteria to be rated at step one.

11 (3) Meeting criteria established by the State Department of
12 Education for a prekindergarten service or prekindergarten program
13 established pursuant to section 79-1104 and reporting to the Nebraska
14 Early Childhood Professional Record System created under section 71-1962
15 shall be sufficient criteria to be rated at step three.

16 (4) Meeting performance standards required by the federal government
17 for a federal Head Start program or Early Head Start program and
18 reporting to the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System
19 created under section 71-1962 shall be sufficient criteria to be rated at
20 step three.

21 (5) Accreditation by a nationally recognized accrediting body
22 approved by the State Department of Education and reporting to the
23 Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System created under section
24 71-1962 shall be sufficient criteria to be rated at step three.

25 (6) A participating applicable child care or early childhood
26 education program operating under a provisional license shall have a
27 quality scale rating at step one even if it meets other quality rating
28 criteria. A participating applicable child care or early childhood
29 education program in good standing operating under a provisional license
30 due to a change in license type may be rated above step one. If a
31 participating applicable child care or early childhood education program

1 is at a quality scale rating higher than step one and the program's
2 license is placed on disciplinary limitation, probation, or suspension,
3 such program shall have its quality scale rating changed to step one. If
4 an applicable child care or early childhood education program's license
5 is revoked, the program is not eligible to participate in or receive a
6 quality scale rating under the quality rating and improvement system
7 until the program has an operating license which is in full force and
8 effect.

9 Sec. 2. Original section 71-1958, Reissue Revised Statutes of
10 Nebraska, is repealed.