

# **One Hundred Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2026**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB959**

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**Chairperson: Senator Brian Hardin**

**Committee: Health and Human Services**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 959 amends the Child Care Licensing Act to direct the Department of Health and Human Services to establish two credentialing mechanisms intended to standardize and streamline background check and training requirements for individuals working in child care and youth-serving programs.

LB959 bill requires the department to create a youth afterschool credential for individuals who are sixteen or seventeen years of age seeking employment in school-age child care programs or temporary nonresidential child care programs. The bill outlines eligibility requirements for the credential, including completion of required registry and background checks and a department-approved orientation, and allows limited provisional employment while background checks are pending. The credential is valid for one year and may be renewed through an expedited process.

LB959 requires the department to establish an Adult Eligibility Passport for individuals eighteen years of age or older. The passport is intended to verify that an individual has met all state-mandated background check and training requirements and to allow portability of those requirements between licensed child care programs and approved youth-serving programs. The bill sets forth application requirements, establishes annual validity and renewal, and authorizes the department to update passport records as new background information becomes available.

The bill authorizes the department to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement both the youth afterschool credential and the adult eligibility passport, including procedures related to applications, renewals, fees, training approval, and privacy and data-sharing protections.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Merv Riepe**