

AMENDMENTS TO LB351

Introduced by Vargas, 7.

1 1. Insert the following new sections:

2 Section 1. Section 71-1914, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
3 amended to read:

4 71-1914 (1) The department shall be the state's coordinating agency
5 for licensure and regulation of programs in this state in order to (a)
6 provide efficient services pursuant to the Child Care Licensing Act, (b)
7 avoid duplication of services, and (c) prevent an unnecessary number of
8 inspections of any program. The department may request cooperation and
9 assistance from local and state agencies and such agencies shall promptly
10 respond. The department shall not be responsible for verifying compliance
11 with subdivision (3)(b) of section 71-1962. The extent of an agency's
12 cooperation may be included in the report to the Legislature pursuant to
13 section 43-3402.

14 (2) A city, village, or county may adopt rules, regulations, or
15 ordinances establishing physical well-being and safety standards for
16 programs whether or not the persons providing such programs are subject
17 to licensure under section 71-1911. Such rules, regulations, or
18 ordinances shall be as stringent as or more stringent than the
19 department's rules and regulations for licensees pursuant to the Child
20 Care Licensing Act. The city, village, or county adopting such rules,
21 regulations, or ordinances and the department shall coordinate the
22 inspection and supervision of licensees to avoid duplication of
23 inspections. A city, village, or county shall report any violation of
24 such rules, regulations, or ordinances to the department. The city,
25 village, or county may administer and enforce such rules, regulations,
26 and ordinances. Enforcement of provisions of the Child Care Licensing Act
27 or rules or regulations adopted and promulgated under the act shall be by

1 the department pursuant to sections 71-1919 to 71-1923.

2 Sec. 3. Section 71-1962, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
3 2020, is amended to read:

4 71-1962 (1) ~~The Not later than March 1, 2014,~~ the State Department
5 of Education shall create and operate the Nebraska Early Childhood
6 Professional Record System and verify compliance with subdivision (3)(b)
7 of this section. The system shall be designed in order to:

8 (a) Establish a data base of Nebraska's early childhood education
9 workforce;

10 (b) Verify educational degrees and professional credentials held and
11 relevant training completed by employees of participating applicable
12 child care and early childhood education programs; and

13 (c) Provide such information to the Department of Health and Human
14 Services for use in evaluating applications to be rated at a step above
15 step one under section 71-1959.

16 (2) When an applicable child care or early childhood education
17 program participating in the quality rating and improvement system
18 developed pursuant to section 71-1955 applies under section 71-1959 to be
19 rated at a step above step one, the child care or early childhood
20 education program shall report the educational degrees and professional
21 credentials held and relevant training completed by its child care and
22 early childhood education employees to the Nebraska Early Childhood
23 Professional Record System for the program to be eligible for a quality
24 scale rating above step one.

25 (3)(a) (3) Any child care or early childhood education provider
26 residing or working in Nebraska, and not otherwise required to, may
27 report his or her educational degrees and professional credentials held,
28 relevant training completed, and work history to the Nebraska Early
29 Childhood Professional Record System.

30 (b) Beginning June 30, 2023, each employee of a program as defined
31 in section 71-1910 shall report his or her educational degrees and

1 professional credentials held, relevant training completed, and work
2 history to the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System.

3 (c) Until June 30, 2023, the State Department of Education shall,
4 upon request, make reasonable efforts to assist any child care or early
5 childhood education provider in complying with subdivision (b) of this
6 subsection.

7 (4) The State Department of Education shall develop a classification
8 system for all eligible staff members as defined in section 77-3603 who
9 are employees of or who are self-employed individuals providing services
10 for applicable child care and early childhood education programs listed
11 in the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System. The
12 classification system shall be based on the eligible staff members'
13 educational degrees and professional credentials held, relevant training
14 completed, and work history and shall be made up of four levels, with
15 level one being the least qualified and level four being the most
16 qualified. The minimum qualification for an eligible staff member to be
17 classified as level one shall be a Child Development Associate Credential
18 or a one-year certificate or diploma in early childhood education or
19 child development. The classification system shall be used for purposes
20 of the tax credit granted in section 77-3605.

21 2. Renumber the remaining sections and correct the repealer
22 accordingly.