

the body, this amendment is the one that deals with the rates that they allow for family day-care providers that are taking care of children of mixed ages, infants, preschool-age and school-age children. And what I am doing, I had...remember the concern that I expressed the other day on the floor about the fact that you had day-care providers who were limited by the rules and regulations set out by the Department of Social Services which limits them to eight children, that we have people out there who are in a position to be either grandparents, like I am, or to have people who have grandparents who like to keep the children now and then, and I think that the children should be in the home as much as possible, in the family as much as possible, but these folks that are providing the services then don't really average eight children, and so what I am saying is I would like to make this become an averaging kind of thing instead of just saying that they cannot have more than eight at any one time, and that would include their own grandchildren or children. So the amendment then only puts into statute caregiver-to-child ratios for family day-care providers. It does not change any currently existing rules for employer sponsored day-care facilities, day-care centers, before-and-after-school day-care programs, before-and-after-school services pursuant to Section 79-444, or any preschool or nursery school programs. And it does not change the caregiver-to-child ratios relating to only infants and to only school-age children, leaving it the same as they are in the current rules for family day care as adopted and promulgated by the Department of Social Services, and that is as it is in the blue pamphlet. The department has adopted and promulgated new rules but they have not, as yet, gone into effect even though they have been signed by the Governor. And these new rules have not done anything to impact on the concern that I had expressed. So this amendment would simply make that change. I would be willing to answer any questions if people would like to ask questions about the amendment. But now it has been printed in the Journal, did you say? Mr. Clerk, it has been printed in the Journal?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: Yes, Senator, on page 480.

SENATOR SMITH: Page 480 in the Journal, if anyone has a question or if they would like to look at it in the Journal, and then ask questions, I would be pleased to answer, but that,