

that have been there about certain localities making it difficult for home day care to be provided because of zoning. This would deal with that situation. We also have the mandate that parents are notified if a child in a child care facility has a contagious disease. We had a situation in Omaha, a terrible situation, result from a day care center not informing parents that there was a child at the center that had a certain contagious disease and disaster resulted and we do not want to see that happen again so that's in the bill. We do provide that, and I'll get into this in the amendment to this bill, that day care homes when they start...first registered have under the original bill, 30 days to be inspected, on beyond that on an annual basis they would be inspected by the Department of Social Services, and I'll get to that with the committee amendments. We deal with...the Department of Education has already established a division of child care and early child care education. This would recognize that division in statute. We do allow the schools already to have before and after school child care programs. This would also allow them to provide transportation to those programs and from those programs. We do set up an advisory committee for family day care rules and regulations. We're very concerned about family day care and one of the things we picked up was that family day care providers feel left out and want to have some input into rules and regulations they must live by. They would be provided that input through an advisory committee this bill would set up. There is a Child Care Grant Fund set up and this grant fund is \$250,000 intended to help address the particular needs of individuals just starting in child care. We have found a great need for child care with our certain provisions of licensures that caused concern and this grant fund could make the difference of whether somebody enters or stays in perhaps also in child care. For instance if an individual has a home and needs a second exit from the basement to qualify to be licensed for child care, this would provide a grant to them to put that second exit so that they could then qualify and provide child care. We set up an exemption from the personal property tax. That was a concern that came up recently in Lincoln. I understand Senator Warner is going to make an amendment to that since that issue is up in the air, but that's another provision of the bill. And that's a quick summary of the bill. There are many elements to it, but those are the major items and the bottom line is that child care is an important issue; children are important people, we need to do more in this area. The federal government has taken action. This Legislature took