

HB 761 -- Child Care Facilities

Sponsor: Donnelly

This bill requires the departments of Social Services and Health and Senior Services, in collaboration with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and other key agencies, to develop, by July 1, 2006, a quality rating system for child care facilities operating in this state. The licensing of a child care facility will be the baseline, while the highest rating is accreditation. The system will allow an individual to evaluate and select the best early childhood program and creates a system of accountability for policymakers and funders.

By January 1, 2006, the departments of Social Services and Health and Senior Services will submit a report to the General Assembly detailing the statutory changes needed to implement this system. By January 1, 2007, the ratings of the system must be available on the Internet.