

## HB 1576 -- 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 individuals, to develop, by October 1, 2006, a quality rating system for child care facilities, early childhood programs, and before and after school programs operating in this state. Licensing will be the baseline, with the highest rating being accreditation. The system will allow an individual to evaluate and select the best early childhood program and provide accountability information to policymakers and funders.

By October 1, 2006, the Department of Social Services will submit a report to the General Assembly detailing the statutory changes needed to implement this system. By January 1, 2007, the requirements of the quality rating system will be posted on the Internet in a format usable by consumers.