

HCS HBs 2183 & 2529 -- CHILD CARE

SPONSOR: Hausman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2183.

This bill enacts several provisions relating to child care.

BUSINESS DISTRICTS (Section 71.796)

The bill allows governing bodies, in establishing and maintaining business districts, to lease or contract with child care facilities in addition to current abilities to construct and operate such facilities.

SUCCESS TAX CREDIT (Section 135.2560)

This bill establishes the "Supporting Use of Child Care for Economic Stability and Security Tax Credit".

Beginning January 1, 2025, an eligible taxpayer shall be allowed a nonrefundable tax credit equal to the employment-related expenses for up to two qualifying children, not to exceed:

(1) Expenses of \$1,800 for each child who was under two years of age at any time during the tax year for which the tax credit is being sought; and

(2) Expenses of \$1,200 for each child who was two years of age or older during all of the tax year and under six years of age at any time during the tax year for which the tax credit is being sought.

A tax credit under this proposal shall not be claimed by more than one taxpayer for the same child. This tax credit shall be nontransferable and nonrefundable, and shall not be carried back or forward to any other tax year.

The program sunsets on December 31, 2030.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION (Section 137.099)

Upon voter approval of a Constitutional amendment, this bill authorizes a property tax exemption of all property, real and personal, used primarily by a child care facility for the care of a child outside of his or her home by a child care provider.

The bill grants an annual exemption equal to 50% of the applicable state and local property assessed on the real and personal property of the child care home to the extent such property is used for child care.

#### SMOKING IN CHILD CARE FACILITIES (Section 191.776)

The bill prohibits smoking or any other use of tobacco or marijuana products in any area of a child care facility that is licensed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. A person in violation of this provision relating to tobacco shall be guilty of an infraction, and a person in violation of this provision relating to marijuana shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

#### SAFE SLEEP POLICY (Section 210.223)

This bill adds a new provision providing that, for licensed child care facilities that provide care to children under one year of age, any costs incurred in the completion of required training on safe sleep policies may be paid by the employees or volunteers of the child care facility; the facility itself; a public or private third party; or the State, subject to appropriation.

#### REGISTRATION FORMS FOR CERTAIN CARE WORKERS

Currently, the Department of Health and Senior Services requires child-care workers, elder-care workers, personal-care workers, and mental health workers to register, as well as complete a criminal background check. The bill adds public or private third parties, as well as the State, subject to appropriation, to the list of eligible entities that may pay the costs of the background check.

#### BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CHILD CARE STAFF MEMBERS (Sections 210.906 & 210.1080)

This bill adds public or private third parties, as well as the State (subject to appropriation), to the list of eligible entities that may pay the cost of a criminal background check for a child care staff member prior to his or her employment or presence in a child care facility.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Those who support the bill say that this is a pro-business and pro-family measure that should not be construed to be a fix for everything, but works to address the workforce shortage in the state and could be used to help pay workers more, make necessary updates to facilities, and invest in the community.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hausman; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Missouri Catholic Conference; and Campaign Life Missouri.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that expanding child care has led to separate standards between child care centers, daycares, and school daycare centers. A more appropriate fix would be to focus on mothers, and tax credits should be used to help mothers stay home with their children.

Testifying against the bill were Lisa Pannett; and Arnie C. Dienoff.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.