

HCS HB 835 -- IN-HOME LICENSED DAYCARE

SPONSOR: Farnan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 12 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 6 to 3.

Current law relating to in-home licensed child care facilities allows up to two children who are related within the third degree of consanguinity, adopted by, or under legal custody of a child care provider who is responsible for the daily operation of a licensed family child care home to not be included in the number of children counted toward the maximum number of children for which the family child care home is licensed.

This bill repeals that provision and provides that any in-home licensed day care provider qualifies for an exemption for up to two children who are related to the individual who is responsible for the daily operation of the in-home licensed day care.

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: Supporters say that when the statute was previously amended, lawmakers did not grant an exception to licensed day care providers, who then had to count all of the children including children related to the provider, which amounts to these providers being punished by the law and not unlicensed day care providers.

Testifying in person for the bill was Representative Farnan.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that no surrounding states allow up to 10 children in a family child care home, and none allows the children to be exempt if related to the provider. This would create an environment that is less safe for all children under the care and we should not try to address the very real crisis of child care affordability in a way that decreases the safety of children.

Testifying in person against the bill were Child Care Aware of MO; Clarkston Nelson; Children's Trust Fund; Lisa Mack Thompson, Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children; Nicci Rexroat; Kids Win Missouri; 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.