

HCS HBs 850, 53 & 482 -- LICENSING OF CHILD CARE FACILITIES

SPONSOR: Schmidt

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 19 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 10 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HBs 850, 53 & 482.

This bill allows the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to grant a temporary child care license to a child care provider, upon submission of a complete license application to expand an existing site or add a new location, provided that the provider's license is in good standing and also submits approved fire-safety, state and local sanitation inspections, city inspections, staff background checks, and evidence of completion of required staff training for the site being added or expanded. The new facility will be subject to an unannounced inspection by the office of childhood within 60 days of opening the new facility. Temporary licenses will be valid for up to 12 months or until the Department makes a final determination on full licensure.

Prior to obtaining the temporary child care license for another facility, the child care provider has to have been in operation for at least 13 months. If a child care facility is an existing child care facility but there is a change in ownership, the facility will be subject to an unannounced inspections by the office of childhood within 60 days of the change of ownership.

This bill is similar to HB 53 (2025) and HB 482 (2025) and HB 2840 (2024).

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 we need more childcare options and we need them fast. However, we also need to make sure we are not putting children at risk by lowering standards. This bill does that.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Schmidt; David Jackson, Wonderschool; Missouri State Alliance of YMCAS; Melissa Wehner, Jordan Valley Community Health; Kids Win Missouri; Christy Jennings, Building Blocks Learning Center.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

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.