

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER

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FORTY-SEVENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

AB- 2001

Family Child Care Education Networks

SUMMARY

AB 2001 codifies, clarifies and standardizes the duties and responsibilities of family child care home education network (FCCHEN) contractors and providers.

EXISTING LAW/BACKGROUND

Current law establishes the Child Care and Development Services Act to provide child care and development services as part of a coordinated, comprehensive, and cost-effective system serving children from birth to 13 years old and their parents. This includes a full range of supervision, health, and support services through full- and part-time programs.

Family Child Care Home Education Networks (FCCHENs) are networks of family child care providers that receive support from staff of a contracted agency. Family Child Care Home Education Networks offer a promising model for the state to improve the quality of family child care options in California.

However, existing law lacks consistent administration and implementation of FCCHENs, so tools used to make quality assessments may not be appropriate to family child care home settings. Existing law also does not provide for uniformity in provider reimbursement rates or ongoing education for providers. Small family providers and the vulnerable children they serve suffer as reimbursement rates fall below workable levels.

Family Child Care Homes provide flexible child care for children during non-traditional hours including weekends and rotating shifts. Largely located in residential neighborhoods, family care settings are also available near a child's home and/or school. This type of care serves all ages of children in a home setting, therefore it is frequently an option for parents seeking child care for siblings.

Losing a caregiver threatens the ability of parents to work and interrupts a child's cognitive and social development. We must codify the programs to provide for greater statewide consistency of services and increase access to high quality options for families specifically those with infants and toddlers.

THIS BILL

Family child care is a critical resource for working families. This bill amends current law to provide consistency in administering FCCHEN programs through increases in reimbursement rates, support for career development pathways for providers and use of appropriate assessment tools to evaluate FCC homes within these networks.

SUPPORT

California Child Care Resource and Referral Network (Sponsor)

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