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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

	ORIGINAL DATE 2-10-06		
SPONSOR	Picraux	LAST UPDATED	2/11/06 HB 729
	CYFD EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION		
SHORT TITLE	TRAINING	SB	
		ANALYST	Lucero

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB491, SB79
Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 729 appropriates \$100.0 from the general fund to Children, Youth and Families Department for the purpose of providing early childhood education training.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

There are approximately 8,500+ early education providers working in more than 1000 licensed centers and homes who are required to complete 24 educational contact hours annually to maintain their licensing status.

The CYFD child care quality improvement initiative STARS/AIM HIGH also requires providers

to continually learn additional skills to progress toward higher levels of quality service and become eligible for higher levels of reimbursement.

Licensed child care centers are currently required to have staff trained in the 45-Hour Entry-Level Course by July 1, 2006 or within the first six-months of employment.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The bill would positively impact the CYFD performance measure of percent of licensed child care providers increasing in AIM HIGH/STARS level.

By increasing the availability of training to early childhood education programs, the number of child care programs prepared to participate in the AIM HIGH quality initiative is expected to increase. The number of eligible programs participating in AIM HIGH is a CYFD performance measure.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD will absorb any additional administrative impact associated with passage of this bill

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to HB491, SB79.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

- It is estimated that 15 – 20% of early childhood population is at high risk for developing a disability or being delayed. Trained child-care workers may be able to help identify these at-risk children early on so that support services can begin sooner.
- Integrating children with disabilities into early childhood care settings can often depend on a “well-prepared and well-trained staff”.
- There is a need for local training and technical support for child-care providers. TTAPs, FIT and PED programs do not meet the current needs for training and technical assistance.
- It would be good to clarify if these could be on-site training, direct consultation, orientations, online courses, etc... Also, it would be good to specify any requirements the trainings or programs must meet to be funded by the appropriation.

The bill might want to support an effort to build community support:

- Early childhood education and care is undervalued by the general public. The public lacks knowledge of the strong link between a child’s early experiences and later academic and life success.
- Parents often do not have information necessary to determine the level of quality in early childhood programs. CYFD is addressing this with the “5 Star Licensing” program.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

PED notes that rural communities do not have easy access to professional development and technical assistance for early childhood programs. Many of these communities also lack adequate available local resources to provide these services. High-quality technical assistance and professional development are necessary to meet state and national program and staff licensing requirements.

DL/mt