

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Assembly Journal
Ninety-First Regular Session

10:00 A.M.

THURSDAY January 28, 1993

The assembly met.
Representative Krug in the chair.
The assembly dispensed with the call of the roll.

COMMUNICATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Social Services
Madison

December 30, 1992

To the Honorable the Assembly:

Section 28(2) of 1991 Wisconsin Act 275 requires the Department of Health and Social Services to report on the development of Quality of Care Standards for child care providers and the use of federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funds to reimburse child care providers meeting those standards at a higher rate. This report is in response to the Act 275 requirement.

Act 275 created s. 46.98(4)(e), which requires the Department to establish Quality of Care Standards for child care providers that are higher than the standards used for licensure by the Department or certification by counties. The Quality of Care Standards must be based on the standards used by the National Association for the Education of Young Children to accredit day care centers or comparable standards established by the Department. The standards must address issues such as the turnover of child care provider staff and the training and benefits available to child care provider staff.

The Quality of Care Standards were developed in 1992, with the help of a quality care work group and the State Day Care Advisory Committee. A copy of the standards is attached. In 1993, the standards will be promulgated as rules.

In 1992, the standards were used as goals for Quality Improvement Grants. Grants were awarded to 75 group day care centers and 46 family day care homes. A second Request for Proposals for Quality Improvement Grants will be issued in January of 1993.

Act 275 created s. 46.979(2)(c)3, which allocates Child Care and Development Grant funds to reimburse child care providers who serve low-income families receiving child care assistance at a higher rate than other child care providers. Alternatively, the funds may be used for a program of grants to assist child care providers meet the Quality of Care Standards. The statute gives the Department the authority to transfer funds not used for

these purposes to the allocation under s. 46.979(2)(c)4 for grants to improve the quality of child care services in the state.

Federal approval has not been obtained to provide higher rates of reimbursement to child care providers who meet the high quality standards. The federal government denied our initial proposal for high quality rates, submitted with our Child Care and Development Block Grant Plan in August of 1991. However, federal regulations governing payment rates under the Child Care and Development Block Grant changed in 1992. We will resubmit a proposal for high quality rates in early 1993.

Act 275 allocated \$600,000 of child Care and Development Block Grant funds in fiscal year 1991-92 and \$1,200,000 in fiscal year 1992-93 for reimbursement at higher rates or grants to meet the Quality of Care Standards. Since federal authority was not obtained to reimburse child care providers at higher rates, all of the fiscal year 1991-92 funds were distributed as grants to child care providers to meet the Quality of Care Standards. The Department plans to distribute all of the fiscal year 1992-93 funds as grants to providers as well. If federal approval is obtained to reimburse providers at higher rates, the use of Child Care and Development Block Grant funds to provide reimbursement at higher rates would likely begin in fiscal year 1993-94.

No transfers of funds were made in fiscal year 1991-92 from the allocation under section 46.979(2)(c)3 to the allocation under section 46.979(2)(c)4. No transfers are anticipated in fiscal year 1992-93.

Sincerely,
GERALD WHITBURN
Secretary, DHSS

January 5, 1993

Mr. Thomas Melvin
Clerk of Assembly, State Capitol
1 E. Main St., Room 402
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Mr. Melvin:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the report entitled "Evaluation of the Day Care/Kindergarten Project, the State-Funded All-Day Kindergarten Program and First Grade Project," for the Milwaukee Public Schools. This report summarizes the projects and the research findings for the 1991-92 school year.

JOURNAL OF THE ASSEMBLY [January 28, 1993]

It should be noted that this report was prepared in response to Sections 119.71, 119.72, 119.73 and 119.75 of the current state statutes dated June 18, 1992. It has been mandated that the board shall evaluate the effectiveness of the expanded 5 year-old kindergarten programs and the early childhood education programs in meeting the needs of disadvantaged children and provide expanded opportunities for first grade pupils who have participated in an expanded 5 year-old kindergarten program.

This report should provide you with a comprehensive summary as well as specific details regarding the positive impact of these early childhood projects. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (414) 475-8263.

Sincerely,
DR. EVELYN KOEPEL
Research Specialist

State of Wisconsin
Office of the Commissioner of Insurance
Madison

January 8, 1993

To the Honorable the Assembly:

Enclosed is a report entitled "Report on Probationary or Waiting Periods." This report was required by Act 250 (1991 Assembly Bill 655, Section 9130).

It is to be distributed in the manner provided under s. 13.172(3), Wis. Stat., to the standing committees with jurisdiction over health insurance.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the report.

Sincerely,
JOHN W. TORGERSON
Deputy Commissioner

State of Wisconsin
Office of the Commissioner of Insurance
Madison

January 8, 1993

To the Honorable the Assembly:

Enclosed is a report entitled "Report on Reinsurance." This report was required by Act 250 (1991 Assembly Bill 655, Section 9130).

It is to be distributed in the manner provided under s. 13.172(3), Wis. Stat., to the standing committees with jurisdiction over health insurance.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the report.

Sincerely,
JOHN W. TORGERSON
Deputy Commissioner

January 15, 1993

Mr. Thomas T. Melvin
Assembly Chief Clerk
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Mr. Melvin:

In accordance with applicable provisions of the Interstate Compact of 1965, we are pleased to provide to you the 1991-92 Biennial Report of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission. Additional copies will be made available to appropriate committees, members, staff and reference bureaus of the Wisconsin Legislature, federal officials having jurisdiction in our service area, the news media and the general public.

We look forward to serving the needs of our sponsor states and the growing number and variety of public and private stakeholders on the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers under the leadership of the members of the Commission appointed by the governors of both states.

We would be grateful if you would note for the official record of the Assembly the receipt of this report.

Sincerely yours,
MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN
BOUNDARY
AREA COMMISSION

Representative Holperin moved that the assembly stand adjourned until 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, February 2.

The question was: Shall the assembly stand adjourned?

Motion carried.

The assembly stood adjourned.

10:01 A.M.