



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner

S. Duke Storen
COMMISSIONER

July 30, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Chris S. Jones
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

Daniel Timberlake, Director
Department of Planning and Budget

FROM: S. Duke Storen 

SUBJECT: Quarterly Report on Implementation of Chapter 758 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly

I am pleased to submit the Department of Social Services' quarterly report on implementation of Chapter 758 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly, pursuant to Item 349 (E) of the 2017 Appropriation Act. Chapter 758 was an omnibus bill addressing child care health and safety. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me.

SDS:kc
Attachment

Quarterly Report on the Implementation of Chapter 758 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly

April 1, 2018 - June 30, 2018

Report Mandate

The Department of Social Services shall provide a quarterly report on the implementation of Chapter 758 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly (House Bill 1570 / Senate Bill 1168) to the Director, Department of Planning and Budget and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees.

Background

Chapter 758 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly was a combination omnibus bill addressing multiple issues regarding child care health and safety. There are multiple requirements with varying implementation dates. Below is a description of the Department of Social Services' (DSS) implementation efforts this quarter.

Section 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia (Code) changed the licensing threshold for family day homes, requiring licensure when there are five children in care, effective July 1, 2016. A corresponding change was made in § 63.2-1704 of the Code, allowing a family day home provider to be voluntarily registered when caring for four or fewer children, effective July 1, 2016. The DSS Division of Licensing - Children's Programs continues to recruit for new licensing inspector positions due to these changes. This quarter, two inspector positions were filled throughout the state and two consultant positions were filled at home office.

Section 63.2-1701.1 of the Code requires local government to report to DSS semiannually contact information for child care business licenses for child day centers or family day homes. As of June 11, 2018, no localities have submitted business license reports to DSS for the reporting period January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018. A total of 115 localities have reported in SFY 2018. A total of 128 localities have reported since July 1, 2015.

Sections 63.2-1720.1 and 63.2-1721.1 of the Code require national fingerprint background checks for licensed child day centers and licensed family day homes, effective July 1, 2017. One additional position in the Office of Background Investigations (OBI) was filled this quarter. The OBI staff screen the national fingerprint background checks. As of June 11, 2018, over 41,352 child care individuals had submitted to a fingerprint check since the 'go live' date of January 19, 2018.

Revisions made to § 63.2-1725 of the Code added a requirement that child day centers and family day homes that enter into a contract with DSS to provide child care services (subsidy child care providers) shall comply with federal law and regulations. Several activities are underway to develop and implement strategies in response to the federal law, including:

- The preservice health and safety training required by the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act and subsequent federal regulation was developed and implemented August 1, 2016 in Virginia. The 10-hour online course, "Virginia Preservice Training for

Child Care Staff” is offered through Penn State’s Better Kid Care program for free at least until June 2018.

- The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act requires states to collect and disseminate consumer and provider education information that is “user-friendly” to parents, providers and the general public concerning the diverse availability of child care services. Utilization of the child care website, www.childcareva.com, continues to grow. Since March 2016, the site has had 575,136 page views by 403,329 users.

The DSS Division of Licensing - Children’s Programs began conducting subsidy health and safety inspections for licensed and unlicensed subsidy providers in the spring of 2017. Inspection processes are being improved as inspectors learn where providers have issues. The Subsidy Vendor Orientation training for child day centers was piloted in the Eastern Licensing Office. Work is currently underway to revise the training for family day homes based on feedback received from the providers and staff.

Conclusion

The DSS has implemented the new requirements for Chapter 758 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly and this is the final quarterly report. Item 347 (E) of the 2018 Appropriation Act provides that an annual report be submitted not later than October 1 of each year preceding the state fiscal ending June 30, on the activities of this initiative.