



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner

S. Duke Storen
COMMISSIONER

October 1, 2019

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: Annual Report on Implementation of Chapter 758 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly

I am pleased to submit the Department of Social Services' report on implementation of Chapter 758 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly, pursuant to Item 347 (E) of the 2019 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

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

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Report Mandate

The Department of Social Services shall provide an annual 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 year.

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. DSS Division of Licensing Programs continues to recruit for new licensing inspector positions due to these changes. This year, three inspector positions were filled, two in the Fairfax office and one in the Northern office, and one fiscal position was 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 30, 2019, 53 localities have submitted business license reports to DSS for SFY19. A total of 129 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 child day care providers, effective July 1, 2017. Office of Background Investigations staff screen the national fingerprint background checks. From July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, 62,438 fingerprint based checks for child day care providers were completed.

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 at no cost to Virginia child care providers. For SFY19, 11,123 child care practitioners completed the required health and safety training.

- 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. From July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 the site has had 195,751 page views by 53,177 users.

Conclusion

The Department has implemented the requirements for Chapter 758 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly. The Department will continue to monitor the various aspects of these requirements and report on ongoing operations.