

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 795

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR LAGER.

Read 1st time January 29, 2014, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

5702S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 161.216, RSMo, relating to early childhood education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 161.216, RSMo, is repealed to read as follows:

[161.216. 1. No public institution of higher education,
political subdivision, governmental entity, or quasi-governmental
entity receiving state funds shall operate, establish, or maintain,
offer incentives to participate in, or mandate participation in a
quality rating system for early childhood education, a training
quality assurance system, any successor system, or any
substantially similar system for early childhood education, unless
the authority to operate, establish, or maintain such a system is
enacted into law through:

(1) A bill as prescribed by article III of the Missouri
Constitution;

(2) An initiative petition as prescribed by section 50 of
article III of the Missouri Constitution; or

(3) A referendum as prescribed by section 52(a) of article III
of the Missouri Constitution.

2. No public institution of higher education, political
subdivision, governmental entity or quasi-governmental entity
receiving state funds shall promulgate any rule or establish any
program, policy, guideline, or plan or change any rule, program,
policy, guideline, or plan to operate, establish, or maintain a
quality rating system for early childhood education, a training

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

22 quality assurance system, any successor system, or any
23 substantially similar system for early childhood education unless
24 such public institution of higher education, political subdivision,
25 governmental entity or quasi-governmental entity receiving state
26 funds has received statutory authority to do so in a manner
27 consistent with subsection 1 of this section.

28 3. Any taxpayer of this state or any member of the general
29 assembly shall have standing to bring suit against any public
30 institution of higher education, political subdivision, governmental
31 entity or quasi-governmental entity which is in violation of this
32 section in any court with jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of
33 this section.

34 4. This section shall not be construed to limit the content
35 of early childhood education courses, research, or training carried
36 out by any public institution of higher education. A course on
37 quality rating systems or training quality assurance systems shall
38 not be a requirement for certification by the state as an individual
39 child care provider or any licensing requirement that may be
40 established for an individual child care provider.

41 5. For purposes of this section:

42 (1) "Early childhood education" shall mean education
43 programs that are both centered and home-based and providing
44 services for children from birth to kindergarten;

45 (2) "Quality rating system" or "training quality assurance
46 system" shall include the model from the Missouri quality rating
47 system pilots developed by the University of Missouri center for
48 family policy and research, any successor model, or substantially
49 similar model. "Quality rating system" or "training quality
50 assurance system" shall also include but not be limited to a tiered
51 rating system that provides a number of tiers or levels to set
52 benchmarks for quality that build upon each other, leading to a top
53 tier that includes program accreditation. "Quality rating system"
54 or "training quality assurance system" may also include a tiered
55 reimbursement system that may be tied to a tiered rating system;

56 (3) "Tiered reimbursement system" or "training quality
57 assurance system" shall include but not be limited to a system that

58 links funding to a quality rating system, a system to award higher
59 child care subsidy payments to programs that attain higher quality
60 levels, or a system that offers other incentives through tax policy
61 or professional development opportunities for child care providers.]

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Unofficial

Bill

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