

2012 -- H 7975

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LC02173  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced By: Representatives San Bento, Palumbo, Williams, and Ruggiero

Date Introduced: March 21, 2012

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-12-23.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-12 entitled  
2 "Department of Human Services" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-12-23.1. Quality of early care and education and school-age child care through**  
4 **voluntary quality rating system.** -- (a) There is hereby established a voluntary quality rating  
5 system which will assess quality in early care and education programs and school-age child care.  
6 For purposes of this section, early care and education programs and school-age child care shall  
7 mean programs licensed under chapter 72.1, title 42 and approved under chapter 48, title 16,  
8 including without limitation child care centers, family child care homes, group family child care  
9 homes, school-age child care programs and preschools, but excluding child placement agencies.  
10 The voluntary quality rating system is established to promote continuous quality improvement of  
11 programs and to further the goals of Rhode Island's "starting right" initiative.

12 (b) The department of human services, the department of children, youth and families, the  
13 department of health, the department of elementary and secondary education and other partners  
14 and agencies shall share information and work cooperatively with the Rhode Island quality rating  
15 system, a public-private partnership, to ensure that Rhode Island children have access to quality  
16 early care and education programs and school-age child care.

17 (c) The voluntary quality rating system shall also provide a mechanism to gather data  
18 about program quality, and shall report this information to parents, providers and other persons

1 interested in the quality of early care and education programs and school-age child care services  
2 in Rhode Island.

3 [\(d\) The department of human services shall establish a standard of funding which shall](#)  
4 [reimburse participants in the Rhode Island quality rating systems pursuant to this section, as well](#)  
5 [as providers which have obtained national accreditation, at a higher rate than the reimbursement](#)  
6 [rate under the childcare assistance program.](#)

7 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
SERVICES

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- 1           This act would provide reimbursement at a higher rate to childcare providers which
- 2 participate in Rhode Island quality rating systems programs.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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