

Senate Bill 1515 Safety and Well-being of Children

DHS Actions to Ensure Safety in Child Caring Agencies (CCA)

- Increased inspections
- Improved background checks
- Enhanced tools to enforce child safety requirements
- Expanded oversight of CCA finances
- Improved transparency and accountability

Increased Inspections – Effective July 1, 2016

- Licensing currently inspects each child caring agency (CCA) once every 2 years
- SB 1515 doubles the number of annual inspections, as it requires a minimum of one inspection per year for each agency
- Requires DHS to maintain a minimum of 5 FTE for oversight and inspections of CCAs. (Currently 3 FTEs are doing the work)
- Requires DHS to develop a workload model for CCA oversight and inspections

Background Checks for Proctor Foster Home Applicants - Effective July 1, 2016

- SB 1515 requires DHS to release applicant abuse history information to CCAs
- Specifically, DHS is required to notify CCAs about the following:
 - Whether there is an ongoing investigation involving the applicant, and
 - Substantiated allegations of abuse or neglect by the applicant, including CPS and APS findings

Enforcement Tools – Effective July 1, 2016

- SB 1515 requires DHS to levy civil penalties against non-compliant CCAs in certain circumstances
- Strengthens and clarifies DHS authority to suspend, revoke or place conditions on CCA licensure
- Requires DHS to suspend or revoke licensure in certain circumstances
 - Death of a child resulting from abuse or neglect
 - Sexual or physical abuse or neglect of a child and no CCA action
 - Failure to cooperate with an investigation
 - Failure to provide financial statements
- Failure of DHS Director or designee to take appropriate action constitutes misconduct in the 2nd degree

Transparency and Accountability – Effective July 1, 2016

- SB 1515 requires notifications process when concerns are received to ensure those with oversight responsibilities are aware and can take action
- Notification to any government unit that contracts with a CCA for care or services to children, including OHA and OYA if applicable
- Quarterly reports to Legislative Assembly or interim legislative committees related to child welfare
- Requires staff to report and notify DHS director or designee regarding suspected violation of a license or contract in a CCA that may place a child at risk
- Makes failure to report a crime
- Makes failure to take action a crime

Oversight of CCA Finances – Effective January 1, 2017

- SB 1515 Requires CCAs with revenue in excess of \$1 million to annually submit audited financial statements to DHS for review
- Requires other CCAs to submit audited financial statements at DHS request
- Requires CCAs subject to reporting to also submit tax compliance certificate