HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 3373   **DATE:**   March 22, 2006

   Version: As introduced

   Authors: Nornes and others

   Subject: Modifying Child Care Assistance Provisions

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Overview

This bill modifies the child care assistance program subsidy restrictions by requiring the commissioner to determine a maximum rate for school-age care on a half-day basis and modifying the absent day limitations.

Section

1   **Subsidy restrictions.** Amends § 119B.13, subd. 1. Requires the commissioner to determine the maximum rate for school-age care on a half-day basis. Makes this section effective July 1, 2006.

2   **Absent days.** Amends § 119B.13, subd. 7. Paragraph (a) modifies the absent day limitation by clarifying that providers may not be reimbursed for more than 25 full-day absent days per child, or for more than 10 consecutive full-day absent days. Adds language clarifying that if a child attends for part of the time authorized to be in care in a day, but is absent for part of the authorized time in that same day, the absent time will be reimbursed but the time will not count toward the 10 consecutive or 25 cumulative absent day limits. Specifies that if a child attends part of an authorized day, payment to the provider must be for the full amount of care authorized for that day. Specifies that child care providers may only be reimbursed for absent days if the provider has a written policy for child absences and charges all other families in care for similar absences.

Paragraph (b) requires that child care providers be reimbursed for up to 10 federal or state holidays or designated holidays per year when the provider charges all families for these days and the holiday or designated holiday falls on a day when the child is authorized to be

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in attendance. Allows parents to substitute other cultural or religious holidays for the 10 recognized state and federal holidays. Specifies that holidays do not count toward the 10 consecutive or 25 cumulative absent day limits.

Paragraph (c) prohibits families or child care providers from being assessed an overpayment for an absent day payment unless certain circumstances exist.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2006.