Overview

This bill codifies the age classification definitions relating to day care and makes permanent previously temporary modifications to some of those definitions.

Background

Certain day care homes must be licensed. The licensing laws designate the number of children that can be cared for in a home. That number depends, in part, on the age group classification of the children. As a general rule, the older the children, the more that may be cared for in a day care home.

In 1997 the legislature passed temporary (interim) changes to the age group classifications. The interim changes moved children into an "older" classification group somewhat sooner than previously. The interim changes were scheduled to expire June 30, 1998. Last year, the legislature extended the interim changes until June 30, 1999. This bill makes those interim age group classifications permanent. The bill also codifies the definitions in statute. The definitions were previously located in the Minnesota Rules.

Section

1 Codification and modification of certain definitions. Codifies the family day care and group family day care age group classification definitions. Makes permanent the interim definitions for "toddler", "preschooler", and "school age".

Codifies the definitions of "newborn" (birth to six weeks) and "infant" (six weeks to 12 months), but makes no changes to the definitions.

"Toddl er". Under this bill and the current interim definitions "toddler" includes children from 12 months old up to 24 months old (in specialized infant and toddler family and group family day care it includes children from 12 months old up to 30 months old). If the interim definition expired, "toddler" would include children 12 to 30 months old.
"Preschooler". Under this bill and the current interim definitions "preschooler" includes children from 24 months old up to children eligible to enter kindergarten within four months. If the interim definition expired, "preschooler" would include children from 30 months old up to children enrolled in the first day of school.

"School age". Under this bill and the current interim definitions "school age" includes children who have started kindergarten, or are eligible to enter kindergarten within four months, up to a child's 11th birthday. If the interim definition expired, "school age" would include children from the first day of kindergarten up to 10 years old.

2 **Effective date.** Provides that the bill is effective the day following final enactment.