Overview

This bill creates a child care staff retention initiative and provides for a supplemental payment to child care workers.

Section

1 Child care staff retention initiative.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Creates a child care staff retention initiative in an attempt to reduce the high turnover rate of child care professionals and family home child care providers. Provides for a supplemental payment to the child care worker based on training and experience.

Subd. 2. Eligibility. Establishes criteria for supplemental payment eligibility. These criteria include being employed by a licensed child care center or family home provider, having one year of experience as a child care provider and working at the same location when applying for the supplemental payment, and making an hourly wage less than the hourly wage equivalent to elementary teachers in the school district.

Subd. 3. Supplemental payment. Sets the supplemental payment range at $750 to $3,500 total per year per child care worker depending on training and experience. Requires that supplemental payments of 50 percent be made to the child care worker every six months. Requires that increments for training be based on the department of human services licensing guidelines and the combination of training and experience must be considered in determining the amount of the supplement. Requires the supplement be sent directly to the provider. Requires the department of children, families, and learning to issue a request for proposals for purposes of administering the program and developing the supplemental increments for distribution to the eligible providers.

2 Appropriation. Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the commissioner of children, families, and learning for the biennium ending on June 30, 2001.