

Hello Interested Parties of the Working Group to Study Background Checks for Child Care Facilities and Providers,

The Second meeting of the Working Group takes place next Wednesday, September 28 at 1pm and 6:30pm in Room 438 of the State House (Judiciary Committee Room). The 1pm meeting is a general Working Group meeting.

The meeting at 6:30pm is specifically for public comment. The working group requests public comment is focused one or both of the following two topics:

- Joint Study Order (this established the Working Group to Study Background Checks for Child Care Facilities and Providers). Specifically, the Working Group welcomes comments related to its duties outlined in Section 5 of the Joint Study Order:

The working group shall review the requirements for national criminal history background checks based on fingerprints as required by the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014. The working group shall invite the participation of and comments from stakeholders, including but not limited to child care facilities, family child care providers and parents. The working group shall invite the participation of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Identification. The working group shall recommend how the required background checks should be incorporated into law in this State, including but not limited to who should be subject to the background checks, whether the law should provide for contingent or provisional hiring while background checks are pending, who is responsible for the payment of costs associated with the background checks and how the Background Check Center within the Department of Health and Human Services can help coordinate and streamline the background check process for child care facilities and providers. The working group shall explore options, including the application of federal grant funds, to defray all or some of the initial and ongoing additional costs.

- PL 2015, chapter 497 (LD 1689 in its final form), which requires the Department of Health and Human Services to create rules for both child care facilities and family child care providers that will:

Require a criminal background check for:

- (1) Each child care staff member whose activities involve the care or supervision of children; and
- (2) Each adult who has unsupervised access to children who are cared for or supervised by a child care facility.

The criminal background check must meet the requirements of 42 United States Code, Section 9858f(b).

Both documents are attached.

We look forward to seeing you on September 28!