S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

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I N A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. KAVANAGH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT authorizing the commissioner of the office of children and family services to study the implementation of a child daycare rating system

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Legislative findings and purpose. The legislature finds and declares that with the increase in the number of single parent households and the growing number of households in which both parents work at least part-time, the number of children in daycare programs has grown significantly. While parents can be assured that a state licensed program has met minimal health, safety, and educational requirements, that does not insure that the program will necessarily meet all of the educational needs of each child. Currently there are few ways for parents to evaluate the quality of the programs available to them and their children. There are a number of states in the United States which currently have daycare center rating programs, which provide a rating scale based on specific criteria. The ratings that each daycare center receives are posted on web sites, and available to parents to help guide them in choosing the daycare center which is most appropriate for their children's needs. We feel that because the years from birth to age five are the most critical years for a child's establishment of healthy thinking and learning skills, social development and both interest in and interaction with the world around them, it is in the state's best interests, and society as a whole, to provide parents with as much information as possible about the quality of daycare programs available to their children.

S 2. The commissioner of the office of children and family services is hereby authorized and directed to prepare or have prepared, a study on implementing a child daycare rating system throughout New York state.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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Such study shall include, but not be limited to: (a) the type of rating scales used in other states and which one would be the most effective for use in New York state; (b) the method in which the program would be administered; (c) how such information would be made available to parents and the general public; and (d) the cost of operating such a program.

S 3. The findings and results of the study shall be delivered, in the form of a report, to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly within 12 months of the effective date of this act. The report shall also include recommended legislation that will assist in the timely implementation of a child daycare rating system.

S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.