

## **DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT H-8076 TO EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA SECTION OF SENATE FILE 2088**

The Tyler et. al. Amendment is to the House amendment to Senate File 2088. In effect, the amendment replaces the current provisions within Senate File 2088 that replace the current Iowa Empowerment statute with a new, Early Childhood Iowa Statute. The amendment contains the provisions recommended by the LEAN event to restructure community empowerment, rather than those adopted by the Senate, along with several changes that address issues that have been raised subsequent to the LEAN event as issues that legislation should address.

Most of the language in the amendment is the same as that in the Senate bill, but in the interests of getting all the changes into one amendment, both for ease of drafting and because they are related to one another and should not be dealt with individually, the amendment is lengthy. This explanation covers the key provisions that represent changes to the language in the Senate bill as it would be amended by the House committee amendment.

### Location of Early Childhood Board (page 1, line 13, and page 6, lines 34-36)

The amendment places the Early Childhood Board in the Department of Management, where the State Empowerment Board is currently and as the LEAN event recommended. It further changes the designation of the Department from being the “lead agency” of the coordination center to “providing administrative support” for implementation. The Senate bill establishes the Department of Education as the lead agency.

### Membership of Early Childhood Iowa Board (page 2, lines 28-30)

The amendment calls for 15 citizen members and 6 designated agency representatives on the Early Childhood Iowa Board. The LEAN event had called for 14 community members, 6 designated agency representatives, and a representative from the office of the Governor, but the Governor’s office indicated that it did not want a representative. The Senate bill calls for 6 agency representatives and 3 citizen members; the House committee amendment expands citizen representation to 7. Currently, the state empowerment board has 16 citizen members and six agency representatives.

### Governance of Board and Rule-Making Authority (page 3, lines 21-22 and page 6, line 2)

The amendment calls for the Board to elect its own chair and provides the Board with rule-making authority, as called for by the LEAN event. The Senate bill has the Governor appoint the chair and the Department of Education Board provide rule-making authority, with the Early Childhood Iowa State Council advising on administrative rules.

The amendment calls for the Project Director to be appointed by the Governor, subject to Senate confirmation, as called for by the LEAN event and consistent with the current facilitator of Empowerment. The Senate bill has the Director appointed by the Department of Education.

### Conforming amendments to Chapter 135.73 and 135.74. (page 16, line 23 through page 23, line 44)

The amendment continues the current Stakeholders group that has been involved in broad-based state-community and public-private early childhood systems building, administered within the Department of Public Health and the current designee for federal funding for federal Maternal

and Child Health Early Childhood Systems (ECCS) grants and for Early Childhood Advisory Council activities, as recommended by the LEAN event. It also makes certain changes conforming with changes to community empowerment and continuing its role as a broad-based advisory body to complement the Early Childhood Iowa Board. The Senate bill repeals these chapters, leaving the statutory base for such activities and federal funding in doubt.

Transition Language (page 24, line 22 through page 25, line 5)

To ensure continuity and time for transitions, the amendment has the initial membership of the Early Childhood Iowa Board drawn from the current State Empowerment Board and gives counties subject to consolidating their areas with other counties until July, 2011 to make those transitions.

Unique Student Identifier (page 10, line 43-47)

The amendment requires programs and services funded under Early Childhood Iowa funds to cooperate with the state Department of Education and local education agencies in assigning unique student identifier numbers for program participants, subject to adhering to all applicable state and federal confidentiality provisions. The Senate bill is silent on this issue, but the importance of ensuring such cooperation has been identified as one goal of the reorganization.

Family Support and Home Visiting (page 6, line 15-31)

The amendment adds an additional responsibility to the Early Childhood Iowa Board to establish rules regarding core functions of funded programs, including family support services and parent education programs, including guidelines and standards for state-supported family support programs, based upon existing standards and guidelines for the services. The Senate bill places a section from the Child Development Coordinating Council outlining how schools can provide family support programs within the Chapter on Early Childhood Iowa, although there is no reference to its implications to Early Childhood Iowa. The House amendment amends the Senate bill to clarify that social workers can provide such services. Amendment H-8076 builds upon the emphasis in the LEAN event to move toward high quality, accountable services by providing a specific role for the Early Childhood Iowa Board in this effort.

Fiscal Agent (page 9, line 30-33)

The amendment adds an additional duty of the Early Childhood Iowa Board to establish criteria to ensure effective fiscal management with fiscal agents that can meet those criteria for all area Boards. The Senate bill required that Area Education Agencies be the fiscal agents and the House Committee amendment amended this language to allow for other fiscal agents beside Area Education Agencies.

Miscellaneous Board Duties (page 4, line 23-35 and page 6, line 22-31)

The amendment incorporates back into the Senate bill two current state Empowerment Board duties: to assist in linkages with decategorization and to coordinate and respond to requires from area boards on securing waivers and consolidating funds and planning structures. These duties were omitted in the duties for the Early Childhood Iowa Board, as language was developed. The amendment also allows the Board to address other measures to advance the initiative related to data systems, quality and evidenced-based practice provisions, and developing kindergarten assessments. These were raised in the LEAN event as continued Board roles.