A bill to create family child care networks; to prescribe the powers and duties of state departments and agencies; and to provide resources to child care providers.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "family child care networks act".

Sec. 3. As used in this act:
(a) "Department" means the department of education.
(b) "Family child care network" or "network" means the networks created under section 5.
(c) "Provider" means a home-based group child care home or family child care home licensed under 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111 to 722.128.
(d) "Region" means 1 of at least 4 areas of the state as determined by the department to provide technical assistance to child care providers.

Sec. 5. (1) Upon appropriation, the department shall establish the family child care networks to support home-based child care providers. Funding must be dispersed equitably in a manner determined by the department with family child care networks in every region in this state.

(2) The department shall convene stakeholders to develop a framework for family child care networks based on the needs of providers. The framework must include, at least, the following:

(a) Business supports.
(b) Connections to peers.
(c) Operational supports.
(d) Program quality support.
(e) Training and technical assistance.
(f) Engaging new providers.

Sec. 10. A family child care network must offer or connect providers to services including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(a) Individual coaching.
(b) Training and professional development, including supporting developmental screenings, health and nutrition, program quality, and early childhood mental health consultation.
(c) Connections to peers.
(d) Operational supports, including assistance with licensing, subsidy billing, and recruiting families.
(e) Business services, including tax preparation, policies and procedures, and human resources support.
Sec. 15. (1) The department shall do, at a minimum, all of the following:
(a) Upon appropriation, establish a family child care network in every region of this state.
(b) Require all networks to participate in the following:
   (i) A statewide community of practice.
   (ii) Professional development for network staff.
   (iii) Data collection and evaluation to measure success and improve the networks' responsiveness to providers.
(c) Require networks to be connected to the state's existing child care infrastructure, including, at least, the state's quality and licensing system.
(2) The department shall submit an annual report on the activities and outcomes of each family child care network by region and the changes in the number of home-based providers in the state to the house and senate appropriation committees on the department budget and the state budget office.