

SCS HB 1946 -- YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND ADOPTION SUBSIDIES

This bill changes the laws regarding youth development programs and adoption subsidies.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Neighborhood youth development programs will be exempt from state child care licensing requirements if the program:

- (1) Is affiliated and in good standing with a national congressionally chartered organization's standards under Title 36, Public Law 105-225;
- (2) Provides recreational, educational, and character-building activities geared for children six to 17 years of age;
- (3) Adopts standards for staff that include ratios, training, health and safety, and assessments;
- (4) Does not collect any additional compensation for its services, except annual membership dues not exceeding \$50 per year or program service fees for special activities;
- (5) Informs parents that the program is not regulated by licensing requirements;
- (6) Provides a process for dispute resolution for parental complaints; and
- (7) Conducts national criminal background checks for all program employees and volunteers who work with children as well as screening under the Family Care Safety Registry.

ADOPTION SUBSIDIES

Subsidies granted to adoptive parents to cover any physical and/or mental conditions of the adopted child will no longer be subject to income restrictions on household incomes that are higher than 200% of the federal poverty level. The one-year restriction on the granting of a subsidy is also repealed.