

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 351**

Introduced by Linehan, 39.

Read first time January 13, 2021

Committee: Health and Human Services

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act; to
- 2 amend section 71-1958, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to
- 3 change provisions relating to quality scale ratings as prescribed;
- 4 and to repeal the original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 71-1958, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
2 amended to read:

3 71-1958 (1) Quality rating criteria shall be used as provided in  
4 this section to assign a quality scale rating to each applicable child  
5 care or early childhood education program if the program applies under  
6 section 71-1957 to participate in the quality rating and improvement  
7 system developed pursuant to section 71-1955.

8 (2) Licensure under the Child Care Licensing Act for a program which  
9 serves children from birth to kindergarten-entrance age shall be  
10 sufficient criteria to be rated at step one.

11 (3) Meeting criteria established by the State Department of  
12 Education for a prekindergarten service or prekindergarten program  
13 established pursuant to section 79-1104 and reporting to the Nebraska  
14 Early Childhood Professional Record System created under section 71-1962  
15 shall be sufficient criteria to be rated at step three.

16 (4) Meeting performance standards required by the federal government  
17 for a federal Head Start program or Early Head Start program and  
18 reporting to the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System  
19 created under section 71-1962 shall be sufficient criteria to be rated at  
20 step three.

21 (5) Accreditation by a nationally recognized accrediting body  
22 approved by the State Department of Education and reporting to the  
23 Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System created under section  
24 71-1962 shall be sufficient criteria to be rated at step three.

25 (6) A participating applicable child care or early childhood  
26 education program operating under a provisional license shall have a  
27 quality scale rating at step one even if it meets other quality rating  
28 criteria. A participating applicable child care or early childhood  
29 education program in good standing operating under a provisional license  
30 due to a change in license type may be rated above step one. If a  
31 participating applicable child care or early childhood education program

1 is at a quality scale rating higher than step one and the program's  
2 license is placed on disciplinary limitation, probation, or suspension,  
3 such program shall have its quality scale rating changed to step one. If  
4 an applicable child care or early childhood education program's license  
5 is revoked, the program is not eligible to participate in or receive a  
6 quality scale rating under the quality rating and improvement system  
7 until the program has an operating license which is in full force and  
8 effect.

9       Sec. 2.   Original section 71-1958, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
10 Nebraska, is repealed.