

Human Services

H.B. 7

Primary Sponsors: Reps. White and Humphrey

Effective date: April 9, 2025

Infant vitality supports

- Requires the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) to conduct a study regarding the reimbursement of evidence-based peer-to-peer programming that supports infant vitality.

Help Me Grow

- Revises the law governing Help Me Grow, including by requiring the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) to streamline its central intake and referral system to ensure that services are received from home visiting programs that are appropriate to each family's level of needs, such as the Early Head Start Home-Based Option.

WIC enrollment

- Requires the Department of Health (ODH) to investigate the services and tools available at the federal level and implemented in other states to increase access to and use of the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- Requires ODH to submit a report to the General Assembly detailing the results of its investigation and establishing a plan to increase WIC access.
- Requires ODH to submit quarterly reports to the General Assembly for two years detailing progress on implementing its plan to increase WIC access.

Early childhood mental health services

- Requires the Medicaid Director, by June 30, 2026, to evaluate and update the Medicaid program's coverage of evidence-based mental health and dyadic family therapy services for young children and their caregivers.
- Requires the Director to develop policy and billing guidance for Medicaid providers regarding the coverage.
- Requires the Director to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly with specified information about the coverage.

Head Start and Step Up to Quality

- Requires DCY to rate each licensed child day-care center and family day-care home operating a Head Start or Early Head Start program or a program accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in the Step Up to

Quality tier that DCY has determined corresponds with minimum Head Start or NAEYC standards.

Parenting programs

- Requires DCY to develop strategies for state agencies to use in informing parents, caregivers, and child care providers about evidence-based parenting education programs, and to promote their benefits.

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

- Requires the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood to include in its annual report an evaluation of the outcomes of recommendations made by the Commission, and to submit the report to the General Assembly.