

**Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1119
(Human Services Committee)
(At the request of the Department of Health and Human Services)

AN ACT to provide for a legislative management study regarding child care provider licensing; to provide for a program evaluation regarding child care services; and to create a child care services licensing advisory committee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - CHILD CARE PROVIDER LICENSING.

1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall study the laws, administrative rules, and policies relating to child care provider licensing.
2. If the legislative council conducts a program evaluation of the department of health and human services child care services, the study must be informed by the program evaluation.
3. The study must include input from:
 - a. The department of health and human services;
 - b. The child care services advisory committee; and
 - c. Child care providers.
4. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM EVALUATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - CHILD CARE SERVICES.

1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative council shall consider conducting a program evaluation of the department of health and human services child care services.
2. The program evaluation must include:
 - a. Review and analysis of state and federal laws, administrative rules, and policies relating to child care.
 - b. Evaluation of the child care services framework, identifying strengths, challenges, and opportunities, including opportunities to streamline the administrative process, to enhance clarity for providers, and to provide services for more children.
 - c. Consideration of licensing requirements, the federal and state assistance programs available, education requirements for program operators, training and certification requirements for staff members, the number of children in an early childhood program, child to provider ratios, and square footage requirements.
 - d. Review and analysis of child care funding sources, expenditures, assistance penetration rates, and the distribution of resources to determine whether the program efficiently and effectively uses and distributes resources to support access to affordable and safe child care.

- e. Review of recently enacted legislation regarding child care services to determine if the policies have been timely implemented and properly administered, including an analysis of measurable goals, performance data, and options to improve enrollment.
3. By August 1, 2026, the legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations to the legislative management.
4. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.

SECTION 3. CHILD CARE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

1. During the 2025-26 interim, the department of health and human services shall establish a child care services advisory committee to review and provide input on the laws, administrative rules, and the department of health and human services policies relating to child care licensing.
2. The department of health and human services shall provide staffing and administrative services for the child care services advisory committee.
3. The child care services advisory committee shall collaborate with the department of health and human services to conduct a comprehensive revision of administrative rules relating to child care licensing. In coordination with the committee, the department shall facilitate a series of regional meetings and topical focus groups with child care providers from around the state to discuss child care licensing challenges and review proposed revisions to the administrative rules. The committee must have the opportunity to review and provide input on all of the department's proposed administrative rule changes and policy changes relating to child care.
4. The advisory committee shall consist of:
 - a. Two child care center representatives, appointed by the legislative management;
 - b. Two group child care representatives, appointed by the legislative management;
 - c. Two preschool program representatives, appointed by the legislative management;
 - d. Two members of the house of representatives, selected by the majority leader of the house of representatives;
 - e. Two members of the senate, selected by the majority leader of the senate; and
 - f. A child care expert, appointed by the legislative management.
5. The child care services advisory committee shall provide periodic status updates in collaboration with the department of human services on proposed licensing rules and a final report to the legislative management by June 30, 2026.
6. The child care services advisory committee shall dissolve after providing the final report to the legislative management.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1119.

House Vote: Yeas 82 Nays 11 Absent 1

Senate Vote: Yeas 41 Nays 6 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2025,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State