

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Senate Amendments**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1119

Introduced by

Human Services Committee

(At the request of the Department of Health and Human Services)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study regarding child care provider
2 licensing; to provide for a program evaluation regarding child care services; and to create a
3 child care services licensing advisory committee.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - CHILD CARE PROVIDER**
6 **LICENSING.**

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

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

- 21 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative council shall consider conducting a program
22 evaluation of the department of health and human services child care services.

- 1 2. The program evaluation must include:
 - 2 a. Review and analysis of state and federal laws, administrative rules, and policies
 - 3 relating to child care.
 - 4 b. Evaluation of the child care services framework, identifying strengths, challenges,
 - 5 and opportunities, including opportunities to streamline the administrative
 - 6 process, to enhance clarity for providers, and to provide services for more
 - 7 children.
 - 8 c. Consideration of licensing requirements, the federal and state assistance
 - 9 programs available, education requirements for program operators, training and
 - 10 certification requirements for staff members, the number of children in an early
 - 11 childhood program, child to provider ratios, and square footage requirements.
 - 12 d. Review and analysis of child care funding sources, expenditures, assistance
 - 13 penetration rates, and the distribution of resources to determine whether the
 - 14 program efficiently and effectively uses and distributes resources to support
 - 15 access to affordable and safe child care.
 - 16 e. Review of recently enacted legislation regarding child care services to determine
 - 17 if the policies have been timely implemented and properly administered, including
 - 18 an analysis of measurable goals, performance data, and options to improve
 - 19 enrollment.
- 20 3. By August 1, 2026, the legislative council shall report its findings and
- 21 recommendations to the legislative management.
- 22 4. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together
- 23 with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth
- 24 legislative assembly.

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

- 27 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the department of health and human services shall
- 28 establish a child care services advisory committee to review and provide input on the
- 29 laws, administrative rules, and the department of health and human services policies
- 30 relating to child care licensing.

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