

## **SB2107**

Members of the committee. My name is Todd Beard. I am the Senator from District 23 serving the Williston and Trenton area.

For many years the Department of Health and Human Services has had a rule enforced on childcare providers that specified training hours would not count while the license renewal process is taking place. For most providers this can be 90 days. 3 months. There are annual requirements for training for providers, so with the 90-day window this means a provider only has 9 months to do it in.

Last session I had an amendment drafted which was added to a bill which required mandatory training for mandated reporter of child abuse. This amendment simply stated that any training after the applicant filed for renewal would be counted towards the next years license. This gave the childcare license applicant a full 12 months to complete the training requirements. The bill was passed, and the amendment became 50-11.1-03.

The reason this bill is before you is that the department interpreted this to apply only to the applicant. Not staff working at the childcare facility. That's a problem. How can a larger childcare facility operate without staff? So the intent here is to simply add the words "or staff members" so they count as well.

I also want to make the committee aware that there is a bill in the House which would fix the issue as well. HB1119 does have a provision in Section 11 which would require the Department to accept the training hours completed in the previous calendar year

giving the operator a full 12 months to complete the training. So if a license is renewed in 2026, the hours of training completed in the calendar year 2025 would be counted.

So, why go forward with this bill? In my opinion there could be a potential issue in HB1119 in another section which could keep it from passing. The Department is working diligently to come up with a solution to the issue. I want to make sure the training hours are counted for the full 12 months.

Thank you for your consideration and ask for a DO PASS recommendation. I stand for any questions.