

**HB 1119 Testimony**  
**Senate Workforce Development Committee**  
**Senator Kathy Hogan**  
**April 3, 2025**

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Workforce Development Committee, for the record my name is Kathy Hogan. I represent District 21, which is central Fargo and a portion of West Fargo. This is the last childcare study that is being considered. As I presented in a previous hearing, this concept will take the information that you heard on March 6<sup>th</sup> and integrate it into three steps.

My comments are working off LC draft 25.8078.02004. There was a request to change the language in Section 1 relating to how Legislative Council would use the Program Evaluation, but Council felt it was critical to keep the Legislative Management study in this section. Section 2 refines the details of the Childcare Program Evaluation and includes the process that the ND Department of Human Services outlined in their March 6<sup>th</sup> testimony regarding moving forward on childcare licensing changes (section 2.c ) that they will be developing over the next 18 months.

Section 3 establishes a Childcare Advisory Committee to collaborate with the ND Department of Human Services on the proposed revisions in Childcare Licensing, defines membership and requires a report.

Thank you for your consideration. I am more than willing to answer any questions.

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

**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 ~~early childhood services and child care~~  
3 services; and to create a 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.

1       **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT ~~STUDY~~PROGRAM EVALUATION - EARLY-**  
2 **~~CHILDHOOD~~DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - CHILD CARE**  
3 **~~SERVICES.~~**

4       1. ~~During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the~~  
5 ~~laws, administrative rules, and policies relating to early childhood services and child-~~  
6 ~~care~~legislative council shall consider conducting a program evaluation of the  
7 department of health and human services child care services.

8       2. The ~~study~~program evaluation must include:

9       a. ~~Evaluate~~Review and analysis of state and federal laws, administrative rules, and  
10 policies relating to child care.

11       b. ~~Consider~~Evaluation of the current early childhoodchild care services framework,  
12 identifying strengths, challenges, and opportunities, including opportunities to  
13 streamline the administrative process, to enhance clarity for providers, and to  
14 provide services for more children.

15       c. Consideration of licensing requirements, the federal and state assistance  
16 programs available, education requirements for program operators, training and  
17 certification requirements for staff members, the number of children in an early  
18 childhood program, child to provider ratios, and square footage requirements.

19       d. Review and analysis of child care funding sources, expenditures, assistance  
20 penetration rates, and the distribution of resources to determine whether the  
21 program efficiently and effectively uses and distributes resources to support  
22 access to affordable and safe child care.

23       e. Review of recently enacted legislation regarding child care services to determine  
24 if the policies have been timely implemented and properly administered, including  
25 an analysis of measurable goals, performance data, and options to improve  
26 enrollment.

27       3. ~~The legislative management~~By August 1, 2026, the legislative council shall report its  
28 findings and recommendations, ~~together with any legislation necessary to implement~~  
29 ~~the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly~~legislative management.



1     4. By September 1, 2026, the department of health and human services shall provide a  
2     written response to the recommendations to the legislative management and the  
3     legislative council, which may include a proposed action plan.

4     5. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together  
5     with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth  
6     legislative assembly.

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

- 9         1. During the 2025-26 interim, the department of health and human services shall  
10        establish a child care services advisory committee to review and provide input on the  
11        laws, administrative rules, and the department of health and human services policies  
12        relating to child care licensing.
- 13        2. The department of health and human services shall provide staffing and administrative  
14        services for the child care services advisory committee.
- 15        3. The child care services advisory committee shall collaborate with the department of  
16        health and human services to conduct a comprehensive revision of administrative  
17        rules relating to child care licensing. In coordination with the committee, the  
18        department shall facilitate a series of regional meetings and topical focus groups with  
19        child care providers from around the state to discuss child care licensing challenges  
20        and review proposed revisions to the administrative rules. The committee must have  
21        the opportunity to review and provide input on all of the department's proposed  
22        administrative rule changes and policy changes relating to child care.
- 23        4. The advisory committee shall consist of:
- 24            a. Two child care center representatives appointed by the legislative management;
- 25            b. Two group child care representatives appointed by the legislative management;
- 26            c. Two preschool program representatives appointed by the legislative  
27            management;
- 28            d. Two members of the house of representatives selected by the majority leader of  
29            the house of representatives;
- 30            e. Two members of the senate selected by the majority leader of the senate; and
- 31            f. A child care expert appointed by the legislative management.

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- 1       5.   The child care services advisory committee shall provide periodic status updates in
- 2       collaboration with the department of human services on proposed licensing rules and
- 3       a final report to the legislative management by June 30, 2026.