

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.

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.

- 1 6. The child care services advisory committee shall dissolve after providing the final
- 2 report to the legislative management.