

2025 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2107

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2107
1/13/2025

Relating to early childhood services training for licensure.
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10:41 a.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

Discussion Topics:

- Training hours
- Comparable House bill
- Implementation date

10:41 a.m. Senator Todd Beard testified in favor and submitted testimony #28635.

10:46 a.m. Andrea Pfenning, Vice President of Greater North Dakota Chamber, testified in favor.

10:47 a.m. Carmen Traeholt, Administrator of ND Department of Health and Human Services, testified in Favor #28486 and #28695.

10:51 a.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing.

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

Testimony
Senate Bill No. 2107
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Lee, Chairman
January 13, 2025

Chairman Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Carmen Traeholt, Early Childhood Services Licensing Administrator with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you in support of Senate Bill No. 2107, which was introduced by Senator Beard, and request an amendment for a delayed effective date of April 1, 2026, to allow the Department to stand up the technology changes necessary to track training for staff in a new way.

The Department-approved training a child care license applicant completes after submitting the licensing fees and application currently counts toward the annual licensing requirements for the following year. This amendment would also allow the Department to count training the same way for staff members.

House Bill No. 1119, which was pre-filed by the Department, proposes a new section in chapter 50-11.1 (Section 10) to decouple training and licensing calendars which would simplify the way training is tracked, eliminating a black out period so all applicants and staff get credit for training completed at any time during the calendar year. We believe the changes proposed in House Bill No. 1119 would address the issues addressed in Senate Bill No. 2107.

To implement Senate Bill No. 2107, the Department would need to modify the technology system that is used to track training for licensing

renewal. Because we would need time to modify the system to appropriately track training for staff in a new way, the Department requests that the Committee consider an amendment to Senate Bill No. 2107 to include a delayed effective date of April 1, 2026.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

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.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2107

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 11 of section 50-11.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to early childhood services training for licensure; and to provide an effective date.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective on April 1, 2026.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2107
2/11/2025

Relating to early childhood services training for licensure.
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10:18 a.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

Discussion Topics:

- Training tracking
- Effective date Jan 1st 2026

10:25 a.m. Senator Hogan moved to adopt amendment LC#25.0516.01001.

10:25 a.m. Senator Clemens seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

10:26 a.m. Senator Hogan moved Do Pass as Amended.

10:26 a.m. Senator Weston seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Clemens will carry the bill.

Senate Human Services Committee

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10:27 a.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing.

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

February 11, 2025

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1 of 1

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

SENATE BILL NO. 2107

Introduced by

Senator Beard

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 11 of section 50-11.1-03 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to early childhood services training for licensure; and to provide an
3 effective date.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 11 of section 50-11.1-03 of the North Dakota
6 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 11. Any hours of department-approved training related to child care which an applicant or
8 staff member completes after submitting the fees and application as required under
9 subsection 8 must be counted toward the licensing annual requirements for the
10 following year.

11 **SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act is effective January 1, 2026.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2107**

Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0516.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2107 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2025 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2107

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2107
3/12/2025

Relating to early childhood services training for licensure; and to provide an effective date.
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11:08 a.m. Chairman M. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman M. Ruby, Vice-Chairman Frelich, Representatives K. Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Davis, Dobervich, Fegley, Hendrix, Holle, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Discussion Topics:

- Additional staff members license training

11:08 a.m. Senator Beard, District 23, introduced the bill.

11:13 a.m. Vice-Chairman Frelich moved a Do Pass and place on the consent calendar.

11:13 a.m. Dobervich seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Karen Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Macy Bolinske	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Cleyton Fegley	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y

11:15 a.m. Motion passed 13-0-0.

Representative Hendrix will carry the bill.

Additional testimony

Laura Mehrer, Greater North Dakota Chamber, submitted testimony #40915 in favor.

11:15 a.m. Chairman M. Ruby closed the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED SB 2107 ([25.0516.02000](#))**

Human Services Committee (Rep. M. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2107 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER

SB 2107

House Human Services

Chair Matthew Ruby

March 12, 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Laura Mehrer with the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of Senate Bill 2107.

Labor availability has been identified as the top business concern facing companies in North Dakota. In our 2024 ND Economics and Employer Survey of our membership:

- 70% of respondents indicated they were having trouble hiring employees.
- 69% of respondents indicated that childcare was an issue for their organization.

In the 2023 legislative session, a historic \$65.6 million funding package was passed to help address childcare shortages within the state. GNDC would like to express its appreciation to the legislative body for recognizing the impacts lack of childcare can have on the workforce.

Our members support solutions that remove barriers to childcare licensure and support the quality of early childhood and school-age programs serving children birth through age 12. Senate Bill 2107 provides a streamlined and efficient solution for childcare licensing and training.

Childcare continues to be a challenge for our members, and we want to express our support for practical and effective solutions. GNDC respectfully requests a Do Pass on Senate Bill 2107.

