

**Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 8, 2013**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1422
(Representatives Hawken, Frantsvog, Hatlestad, N. Johnson)
(Senators Heckaman, Krebsbach)

AN ACT to create and enact a new subsection to section 50-11.1-03 and two new sections to chapter 50-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to staffing as group sizes for licensed child care; to amend and reenact subsection 9 of section 50-11.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definition of group child care; to provide an appropriation; to provide a contingent appropriation; to provide legislative intent; to provide a report to the legislative management; to provide for application; and to provide an expiration date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 9 of section 50-11.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

9. "Group child care" means a child care program licensed to provide early childhood services for eighteenthirty or fewer children.

SECTION 2. A new subsection to section 50-11.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

A license is not required for onsite child care services that are located in the actual building in which the child's parent is employed, not to exceed ten children per location.

SECTION 3. A new section to chapter 50-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Play area regulation.

If a facility licensed under this chapter has sufficient indoor recreation space, the department may not require outdoor play space.

SECTION 4. A new section to chapter 50-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Staffing requirements.

The maximum group size of children in a child care center must be:

1. For children less than eighteen months of age, the maximum group size is ten children;
2. For children eighteen months of age to thirty-six months of age, the maximum group size is fifteen children;
3. For children three years of age to four years of age, the maximum group size is twenty children;
4. For children four years of age to five years of age, the maximum group size is twenty-five children;
5. For children five years of age to six years of age, the maximum group size is thirty children;
and
6. For children six years of age to twelve years of age, the maximum group size is forty children.

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$1,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of providing child care provider incentive grants pursuant to section 50-11.1-14.1, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015.

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$300,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of funding early childhood services specialists pursuant to section 50-11.1-18, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015.

SECTION 7. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION. If the changes in the eligibility and copay requirements for the child care assistance program as contained in section 8 of this Act require more funding than the amounts appropriated to the department of human services in House Bill No. 1012, as approved by the sixty-third legislative assembly, for the child care assistance program for the 2013-15 biennium, there is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$2,500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of implementing the changes contained in section 8 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015. If the changes in section 8 of this Act can be implemented within the child care assistance program appropriation appropriated to the department of human services in House Bill No. 1012, as approved by the sixty-third legislative assembly, for the child care assistance program for the 2013-15 biennium, or requires less than the \$2,500,000 provided in this section, up to \$1,000,000 of the \$2,500,000 appropriated in this section may be used by the department of human services to provide child care provider incentive grants pursuant to section 50-11.1-14.1.

SECTION 8. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT. It is the intent of the legislative assembly that the department of human services change the eligibility requirement for the child care assistance program from fifty percent of the state median income to eighty-five percent of the state median income. Beginning July 1, 2014, if the funding appropriated to the department of human services in House Bill No. 1012, as approved by the sixty-third legislative assembly, and in section 7 of this Act for the child care assistance program is sufficient, the department of human services may reduce copay requirements for the child care assistance program. The department of human services shall report the impact of these changes to the legislative management.

SECTION 9. APPLICATION. Section 4 of this Act does not apply to a child care center operator who has maintained a license since before January 1, 1999.

SECTION 10. EXPIRATION DATE. Sections 4 and 9 of this Act are effective until the date the administrative rules containing the requirements of section 4 of this Act on maximum group size of children in a child care center take effect. The department of human services shall certify to the legislative council the date those rules will take effect, and as of that date sections 4 and 9 of this Act become ineffective.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1422.

House Vote: Yeas 86 Nays 7 Absent 1

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2013.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2013.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2013,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State