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H.182

Introduced by Representatives Birong of Vergennes, Boyden of Cambridge,  
Noyes of Wolcott, and Nugent of South Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Human services; professional regulation; early childhood education;  
early childhood educators; licensure

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
licensure of early childhood educators.

An act relating to the licensure of early childhood educators

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 122 is amended to read:

§ 122. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

The Office of Professional Regulation is created within the Office of the  
Secretary of State. The Office shall have a director who shall be qualified by  
education and professional experience to perform the duties of the position.

The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall be a classified  
position with the Office of the Secretary of State. The following boards or  
professions are attached to the Office of Professional Regulation:

- (1) Board of Architects

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(53) Peer Recovery Support Specialists

(54) Early Childhood Educators

Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. chapter 111 is added to read:

CHAPTER 111. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

§ 6211. CREATION OF BOARD

(a) The Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators is created.

(b) The Board shall consist of nine members appointed for five-year terms by the Governor pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §§ 129b and 2004 as follows: three public members and two each of individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator I, Early Childhood Educator II, and Early Childhood Educator III pursuant to this chapter. All members shall be Vermont residents. The members who are early childhood educators shall have been in active practice in Vermont for not less than the preceding three years and shall be in active practice during their incumbency. The public members shall be persons who have no financial interest personally or through a spouse, parent, child, or sibling in the activities regulated under this chapter, other than as consumers or possible consumers of its services. Appointments shall be made without regard to political affiliation and on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability.

(c) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as initial appointments.

1        (d) Board members shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

2        § 6212. BOARD PROCEDURES

3        (a) Annually, the Board shall meet to elect a chair, vice chair, and a  
4        secretary.

5        (b) Meetings shall be warned and conducted in accordance with 1 V.S.A.  
6        chapter 5.

7        (d) A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

8        (e) All business may be transacted by a majority vote of the members  
9        present and voting, unless otherwise provided by statute.

10       § 6213. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

11       (a) The Board shall:

12           (1) adopt rules, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, that are necessary for  
13           the performance of its duties in accordance with this chapter, including  
14           activities that must be completed by an applicant in order to fulfill the  
15           educational and experiential requirements established by this chapter;

16           (2) provide general information to applicants for licensure as early  
17           childhood educators;

18           (3) explain appeal procedures to licensees and applicants and complaint  
19           procedures to the public; and

20           (4) use the administrative and legal services provided by the Office of  
21           Professional Regulation under 3 V.S.A. chapter 5.

1        (b) The Board may conduct hearings as provided in 3 V.S.A. chapter 5.

2        Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. chapter 111 is amended to read:

3                                CHAPTER 111. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

4    Subchapter 1. General Provisions

5        § 6201. DEFINITIONS

6        As used in this chapter:

7                (1) “Board” means the Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators.

8                (2) “Early childhood educator” means an individual licensed to provide  
9        early childhood education pursuant to section 6202 of this section.

10               (3) “Guidance” means direct or indirect consultative support in which an  
11        Early Childhood Educator III provides feedback to an Early Childhood  
12        Educator II.

13               (4) “Supervision” means on-site, direct oversight in which an Early  
14        Childhood Educator II or III observes the practice of an Early Childhood  
15        Educator I and provides feedback, support, and direction to an Early Childhood  
16        Educator I.

17        § 6202. SCOPE OF PRACTICE

18               (a)(1) An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter shall  
19        provide care and educational instruction to children from birth through eight  
20        years of age in a variety of settings, including:

1           (A) planning and implementing intentional, developmentally  
2           appropriate learning experiences that promote the social-emotional, physical,  
3           language, and cognitive development and health of each child served;

4           (B) establishing and maintaining a safe, caring, inclusive, and healthy  
5           learning environment;

6           (C) observing, documenting, and assessing children’s learning and  
7           development;

8           (D) developing reciprocal, culturally responsive relationships with  
9           families and communities; and

10           (E) engaging in reflective practice and continuous learning.

11           (2) An early childhood educator pursuant to this chapter does not  
12           include exempt teachers licensed under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51 by the Agency of  
13           Education with an early childhood endorsement, as provided in section 6204 of  
14           this chapter.

15           (b) An early childhood educator licensed shall have the following  
16           responsibilities as determined by license type:

17           (1) Early Childhood Educator I shall be authorized to serve on an early  
18           childhood education team for children birth through eight years of age in any  
19           setting under the supervision of an Early Childhood Educator II or III or  
20           teacher licensed under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51 by the Agency of Education with  
21           an early childhood education endorsement.

1           (2) Early Childhood Educator II, in addition to the responsibilities and  
2           authorities of an Early Childhood Educator I, shall be authorized to:

3                   (A) in a nonpublic education setting for children from birth through  
4                   five years of age, serve in a lead educator role in a family child care home as  
5                   defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511 or a center-based child care and preschool  
6                   program as defined by the Department for Children and Families in rule,  
7                   providing supervision to individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator I  
8                   and receiving guidance from individuals licensed as an Early Childhood  
9                   Educator III; or

10                   (B) in a public education setting for children in prekindergarten  
11                   through grade three, serve in a support role.

12           (3) Early Childhood Educator III, in addition to the responsibilities and  
13           authorities of an Early Childhood Educator I and II, shall be authorized to:

14                   (A) in a nonpublic education setting for children from birth through  
15                   eight years of age, serve in a lead educator role in a family child care home as  
16                   defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511 or a center-based child care and preschool  
17                   program as defined by the Department for Children and Families in rule,  
18                   providing supervision to individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator I  
19                   and guidance to individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator II; or

20                   (B) in a public education setting for children in prekindergarten  
21                   through grade three, serve in a support role.

1       (c) An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter shall  
2       serve in a supporting role in the provision of prekindergarten services provided  
3       in accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 829.

4       § 6203. PROHIBITIONS

5       (a) An individual shall not hold themselves out as an early childhood  
6       educator in this State unless the individual is licensed under this chapter or  
7       exempt from this chapter pursuant to section 6204 of this chapter.

8       (b) An individual shall not use in connection with the individual's name  
9       any letters, words, or insignia indicating that the individual is an early  
10       childhood educator unless the individual is licensed under this chapter or  
11       exempt from this chapter pursuant to section 6204 of this chapter.

12       § 6204. EXEMPTIONS

13       (a) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the following persons  
14       acting within the scope of their respective professional practices:

15               (1) a teacher licensed under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51 by the Agency of  
16       Education with an early childhood education endorsement; and

17               (2) an individual who provides consultation services in this State,  
18       performs research, or participates in or instructs regular or continuing  
19       education courses, provided the individual does not otherwise practice in this  
20       State.



1           (B) offering college credit based upon an assessment of the  
2           individual's competencies acquired through experience working in the  
3           profession.

4           (3) Early Childhood Educator III shall have completed an approved  
5           bachelor's degree program in early childhood education requiring a minimum  
6           of 120 college credits and field experience.

7           (b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section,  
8           applicants shall pass any examination that may be required by rule.

9           § 6222. LICENSE RENEWAL

10          (a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon application and  
11          payment of the required fee. Failure to comply with the provisions of this  
12          section shall result in suspension of all privileges granted by the license  
13          beginning on the expiration date of the license. A license that has lapsed shall  
14          be reinstated upon payment of the biennial renewal fee and the late renewal  
15          penalty pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 127.

16          (b) The Board may adopt rules necessary for the protection of the public to  
17          assure the Board that an applicant whose license has lapsed for more than five  
18          years is professionally qualified before reinstatement may occur. Conditions  
19          imposed under this subsection shall be in addition to the requirements of  
20          subsection (a) of this section.

1       (c) In addition to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, an  
2       applicant for renewal shall have satisfactorily completed continuing education  
3       as required by the Board. For purposes of this subsection, the Board may  
4       require, by rule, not more than 24 hours of approved continuing education as a  
5       condition of renewal.

6       § 6223. FEES

7       Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following  
8       fees:

9           (1) Early Childhood Educator I:

10           (A) Application for initial license, \$125.00.

11           (B) Biennial renewal, \$225.00.

12           (2) Early Childhood Educator II:

13           (A) Application for initial license, \$175.00.

14           (B) Biennial renewal, \$250.00.

15           (3) Early Childhood Educator III:

16           (A) Application for initial license, \$225.00.

17           (B) Biennial renewal, \$275.00.

18       § 6224. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

19       As used in this chapter, unprofessional conduct means:

1           (1) conduct prohibited by this section, by 3 V.S.A. § 129a, or by other  
2           statutes relating to early childhood education, whether or not that conduct is by  
3           a licensee, an applicant, or an individual who later becomes an applicant; or

4           (2) conduct that results in a licensee, applicant, or an individual who  
5           later becomes an applicant being placed on the Child Protection Registry  
6           pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 49.

7           § 6225. VARIANCES; TRANSITIONAL LICENSURE

8           (a) The Board shall issue a transitional Early Childhood Educator II and III  
9           license to a teacher or director operating a registered or licensed family child  
10           care home or licensed center-based child care and preschool program and who  
11           does not meet the educational and experiential licensure requirements in this  
12           chapter. Transitional licenses shall be valid for a two-year period and shall be  
13           renewed by the Board for an additional two-year period with satisfactory  
14           supporting documentation of the individual's ongoing work to obtain the  
15           required educational and experiential qualifications for licensure under this  
16           chapter.

17           (b) At the conclusion of two two-year transitional licensure periods, the  
18           Board, at its discretion, may issue one final two-year transitional license if the  
19           licensee can demonstrate extenuating circumstances for not having attained the  
20           educational and experiential requirements in this chapter and ongoing work to  
21           attain these requirements.



1        (b) In fiscal year 2026, the amount of \$1,400,000.00 is appropriated from  
2        the General Fund to the Office of Professional Regulation to be used for the  
3        licensure of early childhood educators in accordance with this act.

4        Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

5        (a) This section, Sec. 1 (Office of Professional Regulation), Sec. 2  
6        (Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators), and Sec. 6 (Office of  
7        Professional Regulation; licensure of early childhood educators; appropriation)  
8        shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

9        (b) Sec. 3 (early childhood educators), Sec. 4 (repeal; transitional license),  
10       and Sec. 5 (definitions) shall take effect on July 1, 2027.