2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 391

September 1, 2023 - Introduced by Representatives GOEBEN, HURD, BINSFELD, BRANDTJEN, EDMING, GREEN, GUNDRUM, GUSTAFSON, KRUG, MAGNAFICI, MAXEY, O'CONNOR, PETERSEN, PETRYK, PLUMER, ROZAR, SCHMIDT, SORTWELL, STEFFEN, SUMMERFIELD, SWEARINGEN, TRANEL and VANDERMEER, cosponsored by Senators BALLWEG and STROEBEL. Referred to Committee on Children and Families.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1   AN ACT **relating to:** modifying administrative rules regarding the number of

2   child care workers and children in group child care centers.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill changes the administrative code to increase 1) the number of children in the ratio of minimum number of child care workers to children in a group child care center and 2) the maximum number of children per age who can be in a group child care center.

The bill also provides that a group child care center may adjust its ratio of child care workers to children to match the average ratio of teachers to pupils in the school district where the group child care center is located.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3   **SECTION 1.** DCF 251.055 (2) (b) of the administrative code is amended to read:

4   DCF 251.055 **(2)** (b) ~~The~~ Except as provided in par. (n), the ratio of child care

5   workers to children may not be less than the minimum number of child care workers

6   to children specified in Table 251.055.

7   **SECTION 2.** DCF 251.055 (2) (n) of the administrative code is created to read:

1   DCF 251.055 **(2)** (n) 1. If the center is located in a school district where, in

2   4-year-old kindergarten, the average ratio of teachers to pupils is lower than the

3   number specified in Table DCF 251.055 for children ages 4 years to 5 years, the

4   center may lower its ratio of child care workers to children for children ages 4 years

5   to 5 years to match the average ratio in 4-year-old kindergarten in the school

6   district.

7   2. If the center is located in a school district where, in 5-year-old kindergarten

8   to 5th grade, the average ratio of teachers to pupils is lower than the number

9   specified in Table DCF 251.055 for children ages 5 years and older, the center may

10   lower its ratio of child care workers to children for children ages 5 years and older

11   to match the average ratio in 5-year-old kindergarten to 5th grade in the school

12   district.

13   **SECTION 3.** DCF 251.055 (table) of the administrative code is amended to read:

TABLE DCF 251.055
Maximum Group Size and Minimum Number of
Child Care Workers in Group Child Care Centers

Age of Children	Minimum Number of Child Care Workers to Children	Maximum Number of Children in a Group
Birth to ~~2 Years~~ 1 Year	1:4	8
~~2 years~~ 1 Year to 2 1/2 Years	1:6	12
2 1/2 Years to 3 Years	~~1:8~~ 1:9	~~16~~ 18
3 Years to 4 Years	~~1:10~~ 1:12	~~20~~ 24
4 Years to 5 Years	~~1:13~~ 1:15	~~26~~ 30
5 Years and Over	~~1:18~~ 1:20	~~36~~ 40

14   **SECTION 4. Effective date.**

15   (1) Notwithstanding s. 227.265, this act takes effect on the day after

16   publication.

17   **(END)**