



HOUSE BILL 882: Early Childhood Recommendations/DHHS.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 30, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. Dobson, Black, Horn, Russell	Prepared by:	Jessica Boney Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 882 would amend the qualifications for child care center staff and amend the requirements for religious sponsored child care centers. It would require the Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division) to establish expected competencies, to develop a process to meet these competencies, to develop an incentive program, and to study a pilot program.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

Amend Qualifications for Lead Teachers. Requires lead teachers in a child care facility to earn a N.C. Early Childhood Credential before hiring and obtain a N.C. Infant-Toddler Certificate or Preschool Certificate, or its equivalent, within 18 months after being hired.

Amend Qualifications for Operators. Requires an operator of a licensed family child care home to have a N.C. Early Childhood Credential before receiving a license and earn a N.C. Infant-Toddler or Preschool Certificate, or its equivalent, within 18 months of getting a license.

Remove Various Exemptions for Religious Sponsored Child Care Facilities. Removes the exemptions from staff qualification requirements, staff development and developmentally appropriate activities.

Amends Requirements for Religious Sponsored Child Care Center Staff. Requires administrators to be 21 years old and to have a N.C. Early Childhood Administrative Credential or its equivalent. Directs all lead teachers and operators to have a N.C. Infant-Toddler Certificate or Preschool Certificate in addition to a N.C. Early Childhood Credential.

Establish Expected Competencies. Directs the Division to define the knowledge requirements for early childhood educators by establishing expected, graduated competencies for lead teachers.

Collaborate to Develop Process to Meet Competencies. Requires the collaboration between the Division and the N.C. Community College System Office to develop, or revise, a standardized process for early childhood educators to demonstrate ability to meet competencies.

Develop Incentive Program. Directs the Division to develop and implement a program by July 1, 2020, to incentivize higher teacher education and compensation levels. The program shall provide subsidy payment enhancements to child care programs who met certain requirements. The Division shall submit a progress report on the program to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services (JLOCHHS) by March 1, 2020.

Conduct Study on Pilot Program and Submit Report. Directs the Division to conduct a study for the development of a pilot program modeled after the North Carolina prekindergarten program for classrooms for children birth through 3 years and to submit a report on the study to the 2020 Regular Session of the 2019 General Assembly.

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Legislative Analysis
Division
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House Bill 882

Page 2

Requires Early Childhood Workforce Report. Directs the Division to report on the status of the early childhood workforce, including educational status and compensation of all lead teachers and teaching staff enrolled in licensed care programs. The report must be submitted to JLOCHHS by January 1, 2021, and every 3 years thereafter.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law.