



SENATE BILL 570: Hold Harmless Star Ratings/ERS Assess. Resume.

2021-2022 General Assembly

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| Committee: | | Date: | February 25, 2022 |
| Introduced by: | | Prepared by: | Jessica Boney Staff Attorney |
| Analysis of: | S.L. 2021-127 | | |

OVERVIEW: Section 1 of S.L. 2021-127 directs the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), to not require a licensed child care facility to undergo an Environment Rating Scale (ERS) assessment if the assessment would result in the facility losing a star rating because of the facility's loss of educators and inability to replace those educators with comparably educated individuals. This section became effective August 30, 2021, and expires six months after the date Executive Order No. 116 is rescinded.

Section 2 of S.L. 2021-127 requires DCDEE to lower from 75% to 50% the threshold for the percentage of lead teachers in the program required to meet the "rated licensed education requirements" criteria to earn quality rating improvement system (QRIS) "education points" when the ERS assessments resume. This section became effective August 30, 2021, and expires June 30, 2023.

Section 2.5 of S.L. 2021-127 directs DCDEE to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by March 30, 2023. The report must contain the following information from June 30, 2021, to January 31, 2023:

- Number of new high school Early Childhood Career and Technical Pathways programs across the State.
- New community college and university courses that award college credit towards a degree in early childhood based on work experience.
- New community college and university courses that allow college credits for taking online health, safety, and nutrition training modules.
- Information about the Early Childhood and Infant-Toddler Certificate Programs.
- Number of early childhood educators using T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships to pay for college tuition and the increase in the number of early childhood educators using T.E.A.C.H. scholarships to pay for college tuition.
- Information about the WAGE\$ salary supplement program.
- Number and percentage increase of early childhood educators with associate degrees in early childhood education.

The report must also include the number and percentage increase of early childhood educators with associate degrees between June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2021.

Except as otherwise provided, this act became effective August 30, 2021.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

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BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 directs DHHS, the Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division), to not require a licensed child care facility to undergo an ERS assessment if the assessment would result in the facility losing a star rating because of the facilities loss in educators and inability to replace those educators with comparably educated individuals. This section became effective August 30, 2021, and expires six months after the date Executive Order No. 116 is rescinded.

Section 2 requires, when ERS assessments resume, the Division to lower the 75% threshold to 50% for the percentage of lead teachers in the program required to meet the "rated licensed education requirements" criteria to earn QRIS 'education points.' This section became effective August 30, 2021, and expires June 30, 2023.

Section 2.5 requires the Division to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by March 30, 2023 with the following information from June 30, 2021 to January 31, 2023: number of new high school Early Childhood Career and Technical Pathways programs across the State; new community college and university courses that award college credit towards a degree in early childhood based on work experience; new community college and university courses that allow college credits for taking online health, safety, and nutrition training module; information about the Early Childhood and Infant-Toddler Certificate Programs; number of early childhood educators using T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships to pay for college tuition and the increase in the number of early childhood educators using T.E.A.C.H. scholarships to pay for college tuition; information about the WAGE\$ salary supplement program; and number and percentage increase of early childhood educators with associate degrees in early childhood education.

The report must also include the number and percentage increase of early childhood educators with associate degrees between June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2021.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, this act became effective August 30, 2021.