GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

H 1

HOUSE BILL 416

Short Title: Child Day Care Law Changes. (Public			
Sponsors: Representatives Easterling, Colton; Barnhill, Black, Cunningham, Gardner, Greenwood, Grimmer, Hurley, Jeffus, Jeralds, Justus, Kennedy, Nye, and Stamey.			
Referred to: H	uman Resources.		
	April 1, 1991		
TO THE CI The General As	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED MAKE TECHNICAL, CLARIFYING, AND CORRECTIVE CHANGES HILD DAY CARE LAW. ssembly of North Carolina enacts: on 1. G.S. 110-86 reads as rewritten:		
" § 110-86. Def Unless the			
(3)	'Child Day Care' means any child care arrangement except seasonal recreational programs operated for less than four consecutive months in a year, wherein three or more children less than 13 years old receive care away from their own home by persons other than their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, first cousins, guardians or full-time custodians, or in the child's own home where other unrelated children are in care. 'Child Day care facility' includes any child day care center or child care arrangement which provides day care for more than five children, not including the operator's own school-aged children, under the age of 13 years, on a regular basis of at least once per week for more than four hours but less than 24 hours per day, regardless of the time of day and regardless of whether the same or different children attend. The		

1 following are not included: public schools; nonpublic schools whether 2 or not accredited by the State Department of Public Instruction, which 3 regularly and exclusively provide a course of grade school instruction to children who are of public school age; summer camps having 4 5 children in full-time residence; Bible schools conducted during 6 vacation periods; facilities licensed under Article 2 of Chapter 122C of 7 the General Statutes; and cooperative arrangements among parents to provide care for their own children as a convenience rather than for 8 9 employment. 10 Day care facilities are separated by capacity into the following 11

categories which determine applicable requirements and standards as established by the Commission pursuant to G.S. 110-88:

Facility Type

Large Home

Small Center

Medium Center

Large Center

The Commission shall establish the maximum capacity for each of the four categories of facilities.

(4) 'Child Day Care Home' means any day care program or child care arrangement wherein any person not excluded in G.S. 110-86(2) provides day care on a regular basis of at least once per week for more than four hours per day for more than two children under 13 years of age and fewer than six-nine children at any one time, wherever operated, and whether or not operated for profit. Of the children present at any one time, no more than five children shall be preschoolaged, as defined in rules adopted by the Commission. The four hour limit applies regardless of the time of day and regardless of whether the same or different children attend. Cooperative arrangements among parents to provide care for their own children as a convenience rather than for employment are not included.

To determine whether a child care arrangement is a child day care home, all children shall be counted except the operator's own schoolaged children and school-aged children who reside at the location of the day care home. Notwithstanding the limitation to five children prescribed above, the day care home operator may care for three additional school-aged children.

- 'Department' means Department of Human Resources. <u>(4.1)</u>
- Repealed by Session Laws 1975, c. 879, s. 15. (5)
- (6) 'License' means a license issued by the Secretary to any day-care facility which meets the statutory standards established under this Article.

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1 2	(7)	'Operator' includes the owner, director or other person having primary responsibility for operation of a day care facility subject to
3		licensing.
4	<u>(8)</u>	'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Department of Human
5		Resources."
6	Sec. 2. C	G.S. 110-88 reads as rewritten:
7	"§ 110-88. Powers	and duties of the Commission.
8	The Commission	n shall have the following powers and duties:
9	(1)	To develop policies and procedures for the issuance of a license to
10		any day-care facility which meets all applicable standards
11		established under this Article.
12	(2)	To require inspections by and satisfactory written reports from
13		representatives of local or State health agencies and fire and
14		building inspection agencies and from representatives of the
15		Department prior to the issuance of a license to any day care
16		facility.
17	(3)	To make rules establishing minimum and reasonable standards for
18	()	the operation of day-care homes and the issuance of registration
19		certificates. These rules shall establish minimum standards of
20		health and safety that will be required in day-care plans-homes and
21		will recognize the vital role that parents and guardians play in the
22		monitoring of the care provided in day-care plans. homes.
23	(4)	Repealed by Session Laws 1975, c. 879, s. 15.
24	(5)	To make rules and develop policies for implementation of this
25	(0)	Article, including procedures for application, approval, renewal
26		and revocation of licenses.
27	(6)	To make rules for the issuance of a provisional license to a day-
28	(0)	care facility which does not conform in every respect with the
29		standards established in this Article provided that the Secretary of
30		Administration finds that the operator is making a reasonable effort
31		to conform to such standards, except that a provisional license shall
32		not be issued for more than one year and shall not be renewed.
33	(6a)	To make rules for administrative action against a day care facility
34	(0a)	or home when the Secretary's investigations pursuant to G.S. 110-
35		105(a)(3) or G.S. 110-105.1(4) [110-105.1(a)(4)]—G.S. 110-
36		105.1(a)(4) substantiate that child abuse or neglect did occur in the
37		facility or home. The type of sanction shall be determined by the
38		severity of the incident and the probability of reoccurrence. The
39		administrative actions shall include written warnings and special
40		provisional licenses or registration certificates.
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41	0.0	A written warning may be issued which shall specify the corrective tion to be taken by the operator. The Department shall make an
42		nannounced visit within one month after issuance of the written
43	ull	iannounced visit within one month after issuance of the withen

warning to determine whether the corrective action has occurred. If

the corrective action has not occurred, a special provisional license or 1 2 registration certificate may be issued. 3 When a special provisional license or registration certificate is issued, it shall require specific corrective action. It shall be in effect 4 5 for six months from imposition and may not be renewed. The special 6 provisional license or registration certificate and the letter which clearly states the reasons for the special provisional status shall be 7 8 posted where parents can see them. Under the terms of the special 9 provisional license or registration, the facility or home shall not enroll 10 any new children until notified by the Department that it is satisfied the abusive or neglectful situation no longer exists. The Department 11 12 shall make three unannounced visits during the period the special provisional license is in effect. Specific corrective action required by a 13 14 written warning, special provisional license or special provisional 15 registration may include the permanent removal from day care of the 16 substantiated abuser or neglecter. Nothing in this subdivision shall restrict the Secretary from using 17 18 any other statutory or administrative remedies available. 19 **(7)** To develop and promulgate standards which reflect higher levels 20 of day care than required by the standards established by this 21 Article, which will recognize better physical facilities, more qualified personnel, and higher quality programs. The Commission 22 23 shall be empowered to issue may adopt rules for the issuance of two 24 grades of licenses: an 'A' license for compliance with the provisions of the Article, and an 'AA' license for those licensees meeting the 25 voluntary higher standards promulgated by the Commission. 26 27 (8) develop a procedure by which the Department fof Administration] shall furnish such forms as may be required for 28 29 implementation of this Article. 30 (9) To serve as an administrative-appeal body to determine all issues related to the issuance, renewal and revocation of licenses. 31 32 To develop rules for the issuance of a temporary license which (10)33 shall expire in 90 days and which may be issued to the operator of a new facility or to the operator of a previously licensed facility 34 35 when a change in ownership or location occurs, provided the operator 36 applied for a license prior to the change in status. occurs. To develop rules for the care of sick children in facilities and 37 (11)38 homes."

Sec. 3. G.S. 110-90(5) reads as rewritten:

"(5) To revoke the license of any day care facility which ceases to meet the standards established by this Article.—Article and rules on these standards adopted by the Commission, or to deny a license to any applicant that fails to meet the standards or the rules.—Such revocations shall be done in accordance with the procedures set out

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in G.S. 150B and this Article and rules adopted by the Commission."

Sec. 4. G.S. 110-90.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 110-90.1. Qualification for staff in a day-care home.

No day-care home shall be registered if that home is operated by or employs any person who has been convicted of a crime involving child abuse, child neglect, or moral turpitude, or who is an habitually excessive user of alcohol or who illegally uses narcotics or other impairing drugs, or who is mentally or emotionally impaired to an extent that may be injurious to children. The person registered to provide care in a day-care home shall be at least 18 years of age and literate. A person who is less than 18 years of age, but at least 16 years of age, may work on-in a day-care home if under the direct supervision of the person registered to provide the care."

Sec. 5. G.S. 110-91 reads as rewritten:

"§ 110-91. Mandatory standards for a license.

The following standards shall be complied with by all day-care facilities, except as otherwise provided in this Article. These shall be the only required standards for the issuance of a license by the Secretary of Human Resources under the policies and procedures of the Commission except that the Commission may, in its discretion, adopt less stringent standards for facilities subject to licensing but which provide care on a temporary, part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis.

Medical Care and Sanitation. – The Commission for Health Services shall adopt rules which establish minimum sanitation standards for day-care facilities and their personnel. The sanitation rules adopted by the Commission for Health Services shall cover such matters as the cleanliness of floors, walls, ceilings, storage spaces, utensils, and other facilities; adequacy of ventilation; sanitation of water supply, lavatory facilities, toilet facilities, sewage disposal, food protection facilities, bactericidal treatment of eating and drinking utensils, and solid-waste storage and disposal; methods of food preparation and serving; health of staff members; and such other items and facilities as are necessary in the interest of the public health.

Each child shall have a medical examination health assessment by a licensed physician or his authorized agent who is currently approved by the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners, or comparable certifying board in any state contiguous to North Carolina, or by a public health nurse meeting the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources' Standards for Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program, prior to being admitted or within 30 days following admission to a day-care facility; a record of such examination shall be on file in the records of the facility, provided, however, that no medical certificate health assessment shall be required of any child who is and has been in normal health and whose parent, guardian, or full-time custodian objects in writing to a medical

examination health assessment on religious grounds which conform to the teachings and practice of any recognized church or religious denomination.

Each child shall be immunized in such manner as to meet the requirements of Articles 9 and 9A of Chapter 130 of the General Statutes. Article 6 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes and the pertinent rules adopted by the Commission for Health Services.

Each day-care facility shall have a plan of emergency medical care which shall include provisions for communication with and transportation to a specified medical resource, unless otherwise previously instructed. No child receiving day care shall be administered any drug or other medication without specific written instructions from a physician or the child's parent, guardian or full-time custodian. Medical information on each child in care, including the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the child's physician and parents, legal guardian or full-time custodian shall be readily available to the staff of the day-care facility in the records of the facility in accordance with a form approved by the Commission for this purpose.

There shall be a separate bed, cot or mat, equipped with individual linen, for each child to use during rest periods, except for school-aged children; if a mat is used, it shall be of a waterproof, washable material at least two inches thick and shall be stored so that the floor side does not touch the sleeping side. Beds and linens used by members of the household of the operator shall not be used for children receiving care in the day-care facility.

Health-Related Activities. – Each child in a day-care facility shall receive nutritious food and refreshments under rules to be adopted by the Commission. After consultation with the Division of Health Services of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, nutrition standards shall provide for specific requirements for infants. Nutrition standards shall provide for specific requirements for children older than infants, including a daily food plan for meals and snacks served that shall be adequate for good nutrition. The number and size of servings and snacks shall be appropriate for the ages of the children and shall be planned according to the number of hours the child is in care. Menus for meals and snacks shall be planned at least one week in advance, dated, and posted where they can be seen by parents.

Each day-care facility shall arrange for each child in care to be outof-doors each day if weather conditions permit.

Each day-care facility shall have a rest period for each child in care after lunch or at some other appropriate time.

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- No day-care facility shall care for more than 25 children in one 1 2 group. Facilities providing care for 26 or more children shall provide 3 for two or more groups according to the ages of children and shall provide separate supervisory personnel for each group. 4 5 (3) Location. – Each day-care facility shall be located in an area which 6 is free from conditions which are deemed hazardous to the physical 7 and moral welfare of the children in care in the opinion of the 8 Commission.
 - (4) Building. Each day-care facility shall be located in a building which meets the requirements of the North Carolina Building Code under standards which shall be developed by the Building Code Council, subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for day-care facilities, including facilities operated in a private residence. Such standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article.
 - (5) Fire Prevention. All day-care facilities shall be inspected annually by a local fire department or a volunteer fire department, using fire-prevention standards which shall be developed by the State Insurance Department after consultation with local fire departments and volunteer fire departments, subject to adoption by the Commission.
 - Space and Equipment Requirements. There shall be no less than (6) 25 square feet of indoor space for each child for which a day-care facility is licensed, exclusive of closets, passageways, kitchens, and bathrooms, and such floor space shall provide during rest periods 200 cubic feet of airspace per child for which the facility is licensed. There shall be adequate outdoor play area for each child under rules adopted by the Commission which shall be related to the size and type of facility, availability and location of outside land area, except in no event shall the minimum required exceed 75 square feet per child, which area shall be protected to assure the safety of the children receiving day care by an adequate fence or other protection; provided, however, that a facility operated in a public school shall be deemed to have adequate fencing protection; provided, also, that a facility operating exclusively during the evening and early morning hours, between 6:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M., need not meet the outdoor play area requirements mandated by this subdivision.

Each day-care facility shall provide equipment and furnishings that are child size, sturdy, safe, and in good repair. The Commission shall adopt standards to establish minimum requirements for equipment appropriate for the size facility being operated pursuant to G.S. 110-86(3). Space shall be available for proper storage of beds, cribs, mats,

 cots, sleeping garments, and linens as well as designated space for each child's personal belongings.

- (7) Staff-Child Ratio. In determining the staff-child ratio, all children younger than 13 years shall be counted. The Commission shall adopt rules regarding staff-child ratios, group sizes and multi-age groupings for each category of facility provided that such rules and regulations shall be no less stringent than those currently required for staff-child ratios as enacted in Section 156(e) of Chapter 757 of the 1985 Session Laws.
- Qualifications for Staff. Each day-care facility shall be under the direction or supervision of a literate person at least 21 years of age. All staff counted in determining the required staff-child ratio shall be at least 16 years of age, provided that persons younger than 18 years of age work under the direct supervision of a literate staff person who is at least 21 years of age. No person shall be an operator of nor be employed in a day-care facility who has been convicted of a crime involving child neglect, child abuse, or moral turpitude, or who is an habitually excessive user of alcohol or who illegally uses narcotic or other impairing drugs, or who is mentally or emotionally impaired to an extent that may be injurious to children.

The Commission shall adopt standards to establish minimum qualifications for operators, supervisors, caregivers and other staff who have direct contact with the children. These standards shall reflect training, experience, education or credentialing and shall be appropriate for the size facility being operated according to the categories defined in G.S. 110-86(3). It is the intent of this provision to guarantee that all children in day care are cared for by qualified people but also to recognize that qualifications for good child care may not be limited to formal education or training standards. To this end, the standards adopted by the Commission pertaining to training and educational requirements shall include provision that these requirements may be met by informal as well as formal training and educational experience. No requirements may interfere with the teachings or doctrine of any established religious organization.

(9) Records. – Each day-care facility shall keep accurate records on each child receiving care in the day-care facility in accordance with a form furnished or approved by the Commission, and shall submit attendance reports as required by the Department.

Each day-care facility shall keep accurate records on each staff member or other person delegated responsibility for the care of children in accordance with a form approved by the Commission.

All records of any day-care facility, except financial records, shall be subject to review by the Secretary of Human Resources or by duly

 authorized representatives of the Department or a cooperating agency who shall be designated by the Secretary.

Any effort to falsify information provided to the Department shall be deemed by the Secretary to be evidence of violation of this Article on the part of the operator or sponsor of the day-care facility and shall constitute a cause for revoking or denying a license to such day-care facility.

(10) Each operator or staff member shall truly and honestly show each child in his care true love, devotion and tender care.

Each day-care facility shall have a written policy on discipline, which policy describes the methods and practices used to discipline children enrolled in that facility. This written policy shall be discussed with, and a copy given to, each child's parent prior to the first time the child attends the facility. Subsequently, any change in discipline methods or practices shall be communicated in writing to the parents prior to the effective date of the change.

- (11) Staff Development. The Commission shall adopt minimum standards for ongoing staff development for facilities. These standards shall include a requirement that each day-care facility shall have a written staff development plan that shall include training activities for each staff member. requirements for ongoing inservice training for all staff.
- Planned Age Appropriate Activities. Each day-care facility shall have a planned schedule of activities posted in a prominent place to enable parents to review it, and a written plan of age appropriate activities available to parents. Each facility shall have age appropriate activities and play materials to implement the written plan. The Commission shall establish minimum standards for age-appropriate activities appropriate for each category of facility as defined in G.S. 110-86(3).
- Carolina law regulating the use of seat belts and child passenger restraint devices. All vehicles operated by any facility staff person or volunteer to transport children shall be properly equipped with appropriate seat belts or child restraint devices as approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Each adult and child shall be restrained by an appropriate seat safety belt or restraint device when the vehicle is in motion. These restraint regulations do not apply to vehicles not required by federal law to be equipped with seat restraints. All vehicles used to transport children shall meet and maintain the safety inspection standards of the Division of Motor Vehicles of the Department of Transportation and the facility shall comply with all other applicable State and federal

1 laws and regulations concerning the operation of a motor vehicle. Children may never be left unattended in a vehicle. 2

> The ratio of adults to children in day-care vehicles may not be less than the staff/child ratios prescribed by G.S. 110-91(7). The Commission shall adopt standards for transporting children under the age of two, including standards addressing this particular age's staff/child ratio during transportation."

Sec. 6. G.S. 110-93(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) Each licensed operator of [a] a day-care facility must annually apply in order to renew his license and must accompany such renewal application with such supporting data and reports as are required to show conformity with the standards established under this Article."

Sec. 7. G.S. 110-94 reads as rewritten:

"§ 110-94. Administrative Procedure Act.

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The provisions of General Statutes Chapter 150B known as the Administrative Procedure Act shall be applicable to the Child Day-Care Commission and to the rules it adopts. The Administrative Procedure Act shall also apply to child day care contested cases. However, a day care operator shall have 30 days to file a petition for a contested case pursuant to G.S. 150B-23. The case hearing shall be scheduled to be held within 120 days of the date the petition for a hearing is received, pursuant to G.S. 150B-23(a), in any contested case resulting from administrative action taken by the Department to revoke a license, registration certificate, or Letter of Compliance or from administrative action taken in a situation in which child abuse or neglect in a day care facility or home has been substantiated. A request for continuance of a hearing shall be granted upon a showing of good cause by either party."

Sec. 8. G.S. 110-102.2 reads as rewritten:

"§ 110-102.2. Administrative penalties.

For failure to comply with this Article, the Secretary may:

- Issue a written warning and a request for compliance; (1)
- (2)Issue an official written reprimand;
- Place a licensee upon probation until his compliance with this (3) Article has been verified by the Commission or its agent; Issue a provisional license;
- Order suspension of a license for a specified length of time not to **(4)** exceed one year;
- Permanently revoke a license issued under this Article. Article; (5)
- Issue a civil penalty pursuant to G.S. 110-103.1. (6)

The issuance of an administrative penalty may be appealed as provided in G.S. 110-90(5)and G.S. 110-90(9). G.S. 110-94 and Chapter 150B of the General Statutes."

Sec. 9. G.S. 110-103.1(a) reads as rewritten:

A civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) may be levied against any licensee-operator of any child day care facility or home who violates any provision of this Article. The penalty shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for

 <u>each violation documented on any given date.</u> Every <u>licensee operator</u> shall be provided a schedule of the civil penalties established by the Commission pursuant to this Article."

Sec. 10. G.S. 110-105(a) reads as rewritten:

"§ 110-105. Authority to inspect facilities.

- (a) The Commission shall adopt standards and rules under this subsection which provide for the following types of inspections:
 - (1) An initial licensing or certification inspection, which shall not occur until the administrator of the facility receives prior notice of the initial inspection or certification visit;
 - (2) A plan for routine inspections of all facilities, which shall be confidential unless a court orders its disclosure, and which shall be conducted without prior notice to the facility;
 - (3) An inspection that may be conducted without notice, if there is probable cause to believe that an emergency situation exists or there is a complaint alleging a violation of licensure law. When the Department is notified by the county director of social services that the director has received a report of child abuse or neglect in a day-care facility, or when the Department is notified by any other person that alleged abuse or neglect has occurred in a facility, the Commission's rules shall provide for an inspection conducted without notice to the day-care facility to determine whether the alleged abuse or neglect has occurred. This inspection shall be conducted within seven calendar days of receipt of the report, and when circumstances warrant additional visits, the second inspection shall be conducted within one month of the first visit.

The Secretary or his designee, upon presenting appropriate credentials to the operator of the day-care facility, is authorized to perform inspections in accordance with the standards and rules promulgated under this subsection. The Secretary or his designee may inspect all areas of any building where children are in care."

Sec. 11. G.S. 7A-517(5) reads as rewritten:

"(5) Caretaker. – Any person other than a parent who has the care of a juvenile. Caretaker includes any blood relative, stepparent, foster parent, house parent, cottage parent, or other person supervising a juvenile in a child-care facility. 'Caretaker' also means any person who has the responsibility for the care of a juvenile in a day care plan—day care home or facility as defined in G.S. 110-86 and includes any person who has the approval of the care provider to assume responsibility for the juveniles under the care of the care provider."

Sec. 12. G.S. 143B-168.5 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143B-168.5. Child Day8unit.

There is established within the North Carolina Child Day Care Commission—Department of Human Resources a special unit to deal primarily with day-care licensing and registration violations involving child abuse and neglect.—violations involving child abuse

- 1 and neglect in child day care arrangements. The Commission shall make rules sufficient to
- 2 define the duties of the special unit and to describe how it is to function as a special unit within
- 3 the Commission as a whole."
- Sec. 13. This act becomes effective October 1, 1991.