

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE DRS85174-LU-27A (2/3)

Short Title: Amend Purpose/Child Placing/Child Care Laws. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Queen.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT AMENDING THE POLICY OF NORTH CAROLINA REGARDING THE
3 PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE UNDER THE LAWS PERTAINING TO
4 CHILD PLACING AND CARE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 131D-10.1 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 131D-10.1. Purpose.**

8 It is the policy of this State to strengthen and preserve the family as a ~~unit~~unit consistent
9 with a high priority of protecting children's welfare. When a child requires care outside the
10 family unit, it is the duty of the State to assure that the quality of substitute care is as close as
11 possible to the care and nurturing that society expects of a family. However, the State
12 recognizes there are instances when protecting a child's welfare outweighs reunifying the
13 family unit, and as such, the care of children in primarily educational institutions or residential
14 education programs satisfies the standard of protecting a child's welfare, regardless of the
15 child's age, particularly when the sibling groups can be kept in tact.

16 The purpose of this Article is to assign the authority to protect the health, safety and
17 well-being of children separated from or being cared for away from their families."

18 **SECTION 2.** The Division of Social Services of the Department of Health and
19 Human Services shall revise its rules to reflect the policy changes under G.S. 131D-10.1, as
20 enacted in Section 1 of this act.

21 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

