

Legislative Analysis



STAFFING RATIOS AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CARE IN FAMILY AND GROUP CHILD CARE HOMES

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5975 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Jack O'Malley
Committee: Families, Children and Seniors
Complete to 9-9-20

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5975 would amend 1973 PA 116, the child care licensing act, to increase the number of children that in-home child care providers could receive into care under certain circumstances and to add rules and exceptions regarding staffing ratios for those providers.

Currently under the act, a family child care home is defined as a private home where up to six children are taken care of and supervised for periods of less than 24 hours at a time for compensation, and a group child care home is a private home where seven to 12 children are provided that supervision and care.

Under Rule 10 of the licensing rules for family and group child care homes,¹ the ratio of staff to children at any given time must be at least one staff member to six minor children. The ratio has to include all minor children in care who are not related to any personnel and any of the following children who are under six years of age:

- Children of the licensee.
- Children of a child care staff member or child care assistant.
- Children related to a member of the household by blood, marriage, or adoption.

There can only be up to four minor children under 30 months old per each member of the personnel, with no more than two of those four children under the age of 18 months.

The bill would add the above described staff ratio requirements to the act (but would not require the ratio to include children of a child care assistant who are under six years old).

Further, under the bill, if the operator of the family or group child care home had at least three years of experience in good standing operating such a home, both of the following would apply:

- The ratio of staff to children at any one time would have to be at least one staff member to seven children.
- A family child care home could have up to seven children in care, and a group child care home could have up to 14.

MCL 722.111 and proposed MCL 722.114b

¹ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_BCAL_PUB-724_0715_494800_7.pdf

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 5975 would not have an appreciable fiscal impact on any unit of state or local government. The bill would create new requirements for the facilities in question, but these requirements would not create additional regulatory burdens for state departments.

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