

Legislative Analysis



INCREASED CAPACITY FOR IN-HOME CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5041 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Jack O'Malley
Committee: Families, Children and Seniors
Complete to 9-20-21

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5041 would amend 1973 PA 116, known as the child care licensing act, to increase the number of children that in-home child care providers can receive into care under certain circumstances.

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 compensation for periods of less than 24 hours at a time, 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 be only up to four minor children under 30 months old per each personnel member, and no more than two of those four children can be under 18 months old.

The bill would amend the definitions of *family child care home* and *group child care home* to provide that each term also includes a private home with *increased capacity*.

Increased capacity would mean one additional child added to the total number of minor children received for care and supervision in a family child care home or two additional children added to the total number of minor children received for care and supervision in a group child care home.

The bill would provide that a family child care home or group child care home is automatically eligible for *increased capacity* if it meets all of the following:

- It holds a current license.
- It has been licensed to operate for at least 29 consecutive months.
- It has received one or more unrelated minor children for care and supervision during that licensed period.

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

- It has received a renewed regular license after at least 29 months of licensed operation as described above.

The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) could rescind increased capacity due to one corrective action, licensing action, or a determination by LARA that increased capacity is not *conducive to the welfare of children* as that term is defined in section 5m of the act. A family child care home or group child care home could appeal rescission of increased capacity under a hearing held as provided under act.

Conducive to the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of section 5m to mean that the service and facility comply with the act and the rules promulgated under it and that the disposition, temperament, condition, and action of the applicant, licensee, licensee designee, program director, child care staff member, and member of the household promote the safety and well-being of the children served.

The act now provides that an annual inspection of a child care organization licensed under the act must be unannounced unless LARA or the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS),² as applicable, considers it necessary to schedule an appointment for an inspection. The bill would amend this provision by changing “annual inspection” to “inspection in accordance with the approved state child care plan.”

The act now provides that LARA or DHHS, as applicable, may deny, revoke, or refuse to renew a license of a child care organization when the licensee or applicant falsifies information on the application or willfully and *substantially violates* the act, the rules promulgated under it, or the terms of the license.

Substantially violates now means repeated violations or noncompliance of the act, a rule promulgated under the act, or the terms of a license that jeopardizes the health, safety, care, treatment, maintenance, or supervision of individuals receiving services or, in the case of an applicant, individuals who may receive services.

Under the bill, *substantially violates* would mean *repeated violations of the act or repeated instances of noncompliance or a single issue of noncompliance* with the act, a rule promulgated under the act, or the terms of a license that jeopardizes the health, safety, care, treatment, maintenance, or supervision of individuals receiving services or, in the case of an applicant, individuals who may receive services.

Finally, the bill would provide that the definition of *group child care home* is subject to an exception found in section 4b of the act. However, there is no section 4b in the act, in the bill, or in any bill amending the act that has been introduced so far this session.

MCL 722.111, 722.113h, and 722.121

² Under the act, LARA is responsible for licensure and regulation of child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes, children's camps, and children's campsites, and DHHS is responsible for licensure and regulation of child caring institutions, children's therapeutic group homes, child placing agencies, foster family homes, and foster family group homes.

FISCAL IMPACT:

A fiscal analysis is in progress.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.