

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1225

4
5 By: Representatives Bentley, Barker, Brown, Capp, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Dalby, Della Rosa, C. Fite,
6 Lundstrum, J. Mayberry, McKenzie, Petty, Rushing, Speaks, Vaught
7 By: Senators Bledsoe, B. Davis, Irvin

For An Act To Be Entitled

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10 AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE CHILD CARE FACILITY
11 ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ARKANSAS; CONCERNING THE DUTIES
12 OF THE DIVISION OF CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD
13 EDUCATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES;
14 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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18 TO ENCOURAGE CHILD CARE FACILITY
19 ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ARKANSAS; AND
20 CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF THE DIVISION OF
21 CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
22 WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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27 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

28 The General Assembly finds that:

29 (1) There is a lack of qualified and affordable child care
30 facilities in rural areas in Arkansas;

31 (2) Encouraging child care entrepreneurship will help increase
32 the number of qualified and affordable child care facilities in Arkansas;

33 (3) Current information on child care facility licensure and
34 registration requirements is difficult to obtain and comprehend;

35 (4) Some potential entrepreneurs may consider the prospect of
36 opening a child care facility burdensome, overwhelming, and cost-prohibitive;



1 (5) Arkansas provides two (2) forms of employer-provided child
 2 care under §§ 26-51-507 and 26-51-508;

3 (6) Improving access to simplified information on child care
 4 facility licensure and registration requirements will assist entrepreneurs in
 5 opening child care facilities;

6 (7) Improving the dissemination of information on financial
 7 incentives that are available, such as the employer-provided child care
 8 credits offered under §§ 26-51-507 and 26-51-508, may encourage entrepreneurs
 9 to open child care facilities; and

10 (8) This act may help alleviate the lack of qualified and
 11 affordable child care facilities in rural areas in Arkansas.

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 13 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 20-78-205, concerning the Division of Child
 14 Care and Early Childhood Education, is amended to add an additional
 15 subsection to read as follows:

16 (d)(1) The division shall create and make available on the website of
 17 the Department of Human Services a form and graphical chart that concisely
 18 explains the:

19 (A) Minimum licensing requirements for a licensed home;

20 (B) Minimum licensing requirements for a licensed child
 21 care center;

22 (C) Procedure for obtaining licensure as a licensed home
 23 or licensed child care center;

24 (D) Registration requirements for a registered child care
 25 family home;

26 (E) Procedure for registering as a registered child care
 27 family home;

28 (F) Voluntary registry of day care family homes;

29 (G) Procedure for registering a day care family home with
 30 the voluntary registry;

31 (H) Availability of federal or state funds, grants,
 32 programs, or other financial assistance, including without limitation the;

33 (i) Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program;

34 (ii) Community Development Block Grant;

35 (iii) Child and Adult Care Food Program;

36 (iv) Child Care and Development Block Grant;

1 (v) Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership;
 2 (vi) Arkansas Better Chance Program; and
 3 (vii) Arkansas Special Nutrition Program; and
 4 (I) Availability of a federal or state tax credit or other
 5 federal or state tax benefit, including without limitation the employer-
 6 provided child care credit that is available to tax payers under §§ 26-51-507
 7 and 26-51-508.

8 (2) The division shall place a form and graphical chart created
 9 in accordance with subdivision (d)(1) of this section in a conspicuous
 10 location on the website of the Department of Human Services.

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 12 SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Report.

13 Within one hundred and eighty (180) days from the effective date of
 14 this act, the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education of the
 15 Department of Human Services shall:

16 (1) Review the rules and regulations of the division concerning
 17 the licensure and registration of child care facilities; and

18 (2) Submit a report to the House Committee on Aging, Children
 19 and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and the Senate Interim Committee
 20 on Children and Youth detailing the rules and regulations that exceed federal
 21 requirements concerning the licensure and registration of child care
 22 facilities that exceed federal requirements.

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 25 **APPROVED: 2/13/19**
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