

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1644

4
5 By: Representative Bentley
6 By: Senator B. Davis

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL
10 REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE CHILDCARE FACILITY LICENSING
11 ACT; TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "CHILDCARE FACILITY"
12 AS IT RELATES TO THE CHILDCARE FACILITY LICENSING
13 ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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16 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL
17 REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE CHILDCARE FACILITY
18 LICENSING ACT; AND TO AMEND THE
19 DEFINITION OF "CHILDCARE FACILITY" AS IT
20 RELATES TO THE CHILDCARE FACILITY
21 LICENSING ACT.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-78-202(2)(A)(ii), concerning the
28 definition of "childcare facility" as it relates to the Childcare Facility
29 Licensing Act, is amended to read as follows:

30 (ii) For the purposes of this subdivision (2),
31 "related minor child" means a minor child:

32 (a) ~~related~~ Related by blood, marriage, or
33 adoption to the owner or operator of the facility or a minor child who is a
34 ward of the owner or operator of the facility pursuant to a guardianship
35 order issued by an Arkansas court of competent jurisdiction; or

36 (b) Known through a close family relationship.



1 including without limitation friends and social groups with which the
 2 caretaker of the child has been associated for more than six (6) months.

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 4 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 78, Subchapter 2, is
 5 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6 20-78-229. Educational requirements.

7 (a) The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education shall not
 8 impose minimum postsecondary education requirements higher than a high school
 9 diploma or four (4) years of experience in a related field and the
 10 requirements of § 20-78-222 as a prerequisite to being a director at a
 11 childcare facility.

12 (b)(1) The division shall not impose minimum postsecondary education
 13 requirements higher than a high school diploma or GED as a prerequisite to
 14 work or volunteer at a childcare facility.

15 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of state law, to the extent a
 16 staff member in a childcare facility or home-based childcare arrangement is
 17 required to meet minimum postsecondary educational requirements, the division
 18 shall consider a staff member who is enrolled and working toward meeting the
 19 minimum postsecondary educational requirements as having met the minimum
 20 requirements for as long as the staff member is actively enrolled.