GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2025

Η

HOUSE BILL 309 Senate Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 5/22/25 Third Edition Engrossed 6/4/25

Short Title: Bldg. Code Fam. Child Care Home Class.

(Public)

Sponsors: Referred to:

March 6, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO DIRECT THE RESIDENTIAL CODE COUNCIL AND BUILDING CODE
COUNCIL TO CREATE A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME OCCUPANCY
CLASSIFICATION WITHIN THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BUILDING CODE, TO
MAKE VARIOUS CHILD CARE REGULATORY REFORMS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR
FLEXIBILITIES IN SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 PART I. CREATION OF A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME OCCUPANCY 10 CLASSIFICATION WITHIN A DWELLING SUBJECT TO THE NORTH CAROLINA 11 RESIDENTIAL CODE

SECTION 1.(a) Definitions. – For the purposes of this section, the following
 definitions apply:

14 15

16

17

8

1

- (1) Code. The North Carolina State Building Code, and amendments to the Code, as adopted by the Councils.
- (2) Councils. The Residential Code Council and the Building Code Council.
- (3) Family child care home. As described in G.S. 110-86(3)b.

18 **SECTION 1.(b)** Family Child Care Home. – Until the effective date of the rules to 19 create a family child care home occupancy classification within a dwelling subject to the North 20 Carolina Residential Code, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Councils, and State and local 21 governments enforcing the Code shall adhere to family child care home requirements as provided 22 in subsection (c) of this section.

SECTION 1.(c) Implementation. – Notwithstanding Section 310, Residential Group
 R, of the North Carolina Building Code, and Section 203.10, Residential Group R, of the North
 Carolina Fire Code, a family child care home located within a dwelling subject to the North
 Carolina Residential Code shall be treated as a Residential Group R-3 occupancy. The building
 where the family child care home is located shall be permitted to comply with the North Carolina
 Residential Code, provided that a family child care home must meet only the following additional
 requirements:

- 30 31
- (1) Rooms and areas within a family child care home where occupants receive care shall be on the same level of exit discharge.
- Rooms and areas within a family child care home where occupants receive
 care shall be located on the same level with, and within a maximum of 40 feet
 travel distance to, at least one 2A:10B:C fire extinguisher.



3

	General Assembly Of North Carolina	Session 2025
1	(3) A family child care home shall have and maintain a Fire Saf	•
2 3	and Lockdown Plan compliant with Section 404 of the Nor Code.	in Carolina Fire
4 5	 (4) A family child care home shall have carbon monoxide alar systems compliant with Section R315 of the North Carolina R 	
6 7	(5) A family child care home shall have smoke alarms complia R314 of the North Carolina Residential Code.	
8	SECTION 1.(d) Additional Residential Code Council Rulemaking	Authority. – The
9	Residential Code Council shall adopt rules to amend the North Carolina Residential	dential Code to
10	create a family child care home occupancy classification within a dwelling sub	•
11	Carolina Residential Code consistent with subsection (c) of this section. I	-
12	G.S. 150B-19(4), the rules adopted by the Residential Code Council pursuant to	
13	shall be substantively identical to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section	1
14	pursuant to this subsection are not subject to Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 150	
15 16	Statutes. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection shall become effective $C = 150P_{21} + 2(h_{12})$ as though 10 or more written objections had been received	
16 17	G.S. 150B-21.3(b1), as though 10 or more written objections had been received G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).	as provided in
17	SECTION 1.(e) Additional Building Code Council Rulemaking A	uthority The
18 19	Building Code Council shall adopt rules to amend the North Carolina State	•
20	volumes specified within G.S. 143-138(a)(1) through (9) to make conforming ch	U U
21	with rules adopted by the Residential Code Council as required by subsection (d	0
22	Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are not subject to Part 3 of Article 2A	
23	of the General Statutes. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection shall beco	-
24	provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1), as though 10 or more written objections had b	
25	provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).	
26	SECTION 1.(f) Sunset. – This section expires when permanent 1	ules adopted as
27	required by subsections (d) and (e) of this section become effective.	
28		
29	PART II. CREATION OF A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME	
30	CLASSIFICATION WITHIN A DWELLING SUBJECT TO THE NORT	H CAROLINA
31	BUILDING CODE SECTION 2 (a) Definitions For the numbers of this section	the fellowing
32 33	SECTION 2.(a) Definitions. – For the purposes of this section definitions apply:	i, the following
33 34	(1) Code. – The North Carolina State Building Code, and amo	andments to the
35	Code, as adopted by the Councils.	multients to the
36	(2) Councils. – The Residential Code Council and the Building C	ode Council
37	 (3) Family child care home. – As described in G.S. 110-86(3)b. 	
38	SECTION 2.(b) Family Child Care Home. – Until the effective dat	te of the rules to
39	create a family child care home occupancy classification within a dwelling sub	
40	Carolina Building Code, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Councils, and	I State and local
41	governments enforcing the Code shall adhere to family child care home requirem	ents as provided
42	in subsection (c) of this section.	
43	SECTION 2.(c) Implementation. – Notwithstanding Section 310, Re	esidential Group
44	R, of the North Carolina Building Code, and Section 203.10, Residential Group	
45	Carolina Fire Code, a family child care home located within a dwelling subject of the state of t	
46	Carolina Building Code shall be treated as a Residential Group R-3 occupanc	
47 48	where the family child care home is located shall be permitted to comply with the	
48	Building Code, provided that a family child care home must meet only the follo	wing additional
49 50	requirements:	oupopto reasiva
50 51	(1) Rooms and areas within a family child care home where or care shall be on the same level of exit discharge.	cupants receive
51	care shan be on the same level of exit discharge.	

	General Assemb	ly Of North Carolina	Session 2025
1 2 3	(2)	Rooms and areas within a family child care home wher care shall be located on the same level with, and within a travel distance to, at least one 2A:10B:C fire extinguisher	maximum of 40 feet
4	(3)	A family child care home shall have and maintain a Fire	
5	(\mathbf{J})	and Lockdown Plan compliant with Section 404 of the	•
6		Code.	
7	(4)	A family child care home shall have carbon monoxide	alarm and detection
8	(1)	systems compliant with Section 915 of the North Carolin	
9	(5)	A family child care home shall have smoke alarms con	-
10	(\mathbf{J})	R907 of the North Carolina Building Code.	ipituite with Section
11	SECT	TON 2.(d) Additional Building Code Council Rulemaking	ng Authority – The
12		Council shall adopt rules to amend the North Carolina S	
13		d within G.S. 143-138(a)(1) through (9) to create a fam	
14		fication within a dwelling subject to the North Carol	
15	1 ·	subsection (c) of this section. Notwithstanding G.S. 15	Ũ
16		ilding Code Council pursuant to this subsection shall be su	() ,
17		of subsection (c) of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to	-
18	1	art 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Stat	
19	0	ubsection shall become effective as provided in G.S. 150B	-
20	1	n objections had been received as provided in G.S. 150B-2	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
21		TON 2.(e) Additional Residential Code Council Rulemak	
22		Council shall adopt rules to amend the North Carolina	
23		g changes consistent with rules adopted by the Buildin	
24	required by subs	ection (d) of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this	subsection are not
25	subject to Part 3 of	of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. Rul	es adopted pursuant
26	to this subsection	h shall become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b	o1), as though 10 or
27	more written obje	ections had been received as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b)	2).
28	SECT	TON 2.(f) Sunset. – This section expires when permane	ent rules adopted as
29	required by subse	ctions (d) and (e) of this section become effective.	
30			
31		REATION OF A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOM	
32		ON WITHIN A DWELLING SUBJECT TO THE ST	TATE OF NORTH
33		GULATIONS FOR MANUFACTURED HOMES	
34		TON 3.(a) Definitions. – For the purposes of this see	ction, the following
35	definitions apply:		
36	(1)	Code. – The North Carolina State Building Code, and	amendments to the
37		Code, as adopted by the Councils.	
38	(2)	Councils. – The Residential Code Council and the Buildi	-
39	(3)	Family child care home. – As described in G.S. 110-86(3	
40		TON 3.(b) Family Child Care Home. – Until the effective	
41	•	nild care home occupancy classification within a dwelling	5
42		a Regulations for Manufactured Homes, the Office of the	
43 44		State and local governments enforcing the Code shall ad	here to family child
44 45	-	ements as provided in subsection (c) of this section.) Decidential Crown
43 46		TON 3.(c) Implementation. – Notwithstanding Section 310	-
40 47		arolina Building Code, and Section 203.10, Residential Gade, a family child care home located within a dwelling su	-
47 48		egulations for Manufactured Homes shall be treated as a Re	•
48 49		dwelling where the family child care home is located as a	-
49 50	- ·	North Carolina Regulations for Manufactured Homes, pro	-
50 51		nust meet only the following additional requirements:	s nucu mai a family
51		must most only the following additional requirements.	

	General Assem	bly Of North Carolina	Session 2025
1 2	(1)	Rooms and areas within a family child care home where where the same level of exit discharge.	nere occupants receive
3 4	(2)	Rooms and areas within a family child care home when care shall be located on the same level with, and within	a maximum of 40 feet
5		travel distance to, at least one 2A:10B:C fire extinguis	
6	(3)	A family child care home shall have and maintain a F	
7		and Lockdown Plan compliant with Section 404 of th	he North Carolina Fire
8	(\mathbf{A})	Code.	1 1 1 1 4 7
9	(4)	A family child care home shall have carbon monoxic	
10 11	(5)	systems compliant with Section R315 of the North Card	
11	(5)	A family child care home shall have smoke alarms c R314 of the North Carolina Residential Code.	compliant with Section
12	SEC	TION 3.(d) Additional Building Code Council Rulema	king Authority The
13 14		Council shall adopt rules to amend the North Carolina	e
14 15	Ū.	ed within G.S. 143-138(a)(1) through (9) to create a fa	5
16		fication within a dwelling subject to the State of North C	
17	- ·	Homes consistent with subsection (c) of this sect	0
18		, the rules adopted by the Building Code Council pursu	-
19	• •	ively identical to the provisions of subsection (c) of this	
20		subsection are not subject to Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapt	1
21	1	adopted pursuant to this subsection shall become eff	
22		b1), as though 10 or more written objections had been r	-
23	G.S. 150B-21.3(
24		TION 3.(e) Additional Residential Code Council Rulem	aking Authority. – The
25		e Council shall adopt rules to amend the North Carolin	e
26		ng changes consistent with rules adopted by the Build	
27	required by sub	section (d) of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to t	his subsection are not
28	subject to Part 3	of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. F	Rules adopted pursuant
29	to this subsection	n shall become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3	3(b1), as though 10 or
30		ections had been received as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3	
31		TION 3.(f) Sunset. – This section expires when perma	anent rules adopted as
32	required by subs	ections (d) and (e) of this section become effective.	
33			
34		RIOUS CHILD CARE REGULATORY REFORMS	AND TECHNICAL
35	CHANGES		
36		TION 4.(a) G.S. 110-86 reads as rewritten:	
37 38	"§ 110-86. Defi		an abaaaaa waad in thia
30 39		ontext or subject matter otherwise requires, the terms of lefined as follows:	or prinases used in this
40	Article shall be o	lenned as follows.	
41	(3)	Child care facility. – Includes child care centers, family	child care homes and
42	(3)	any other child care arrangement not excluded by	
43		provides child care, regardless of the time of day, w	
44		whether or not operated for profit.	nerever operated, and
45		a. A child care center is an arrangement where, at	any one time. there are
46		three or more preschool-age children or nin	•
47		children receiving child care.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
48		b. A family child care home is a child care arra	angement located in a
49		residence an operator occupied private dwelli	
50		time, more than two children, but less than 11	
51		care, provided the arrangement is in accordance	

2 SECTION 4.(b) G.S. 110-91 reads as rewritten: 3 "\$ 110-91. Mandatory standards for a license. 4 All child care facilities shall comply with all State laws and federal laws and local ordinances that pertain to child health, safety, and welfare. Except as otherwise provided in this Article, the standards in this section apply to the school-age children of the operator of a child care facility but do apply to the preschool-age children of the operator of a child care facility but do apply to the preschool-age children of the operator of a child care facility but do apply to the preschool-age children of the operator. Children 13 years of age or older may receive child care on a voluntary basis provided all applicable required standards are met. The standards in this section, along with any other applicable State laws and federal laws or local ordinances, shall be the required standards for the licensing of facilities which provide care on a temporary, part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis. 15 16 (4) Building. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building which meets the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina <u>State Building Code-under standards which shall be developed by the Building Code Council, Code.</u> 21 subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, including facilities operated in a private residence. as family child care homes. 22 building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate the equivalant of that prescribed in the	1	
4 All child care facilities shall comply with all State laws and federal laws and local ordinances 5 that pertain to child health, safety, and welfare. Except as otherwise provided in this Article, the 6 standards in this section apply to the school-age children of the operator of a child care facilities. However, none of the 7 standards in this section apply to the school-age children of the operator. Children 13 years of age or older may 7 receive child care on a voluntary basis provided all applicable State laws and federal laws or local 10 ordinances, shall be the required standards for the issuance of a license by the Secretary under 11 the policies and procedures of the Commission except that the Commission may, in its discretion, 12 adopt less stringent standards for the licensing of facilities which provide care on a temporary, 13 part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis. 15 16 (4) Building. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building which meets 17 the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina <u>State</u> Building Code under 18 standards which shall be developed by the Building Code Council, Code. 19 subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, 20 including facilities operated in a pri	2	SECTION 4.(b) G.S. 110-91 reads as rewritten:
5 that pertain to child health, safety, and welfare. Except as otherwise provided in this Article, the standards in this section shall be compiled with by all child care facilities. However, none of the standards in this section apply to the school-age children of the operator of a child care facility but do apply to the preschool-age children of the operator of a child care facility but do apply to the preschool-age children of the operator of a child care facility but do apply to the preschool-age children of the operator. Children 13 years of age or older may receive child care on a voluntary basis provided all applicable required standards are met. The standards in this section, along with any other applicable State laws and federal laws or local ordinances, shall be the required standards for the issuance of a license by the Secretary under the policies and procedures of the Commission except that the Commission may, in its discretion, adopt less stringent standards for the licensing of facilities which provide care on a temporary, part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis. 15 16 (4) Building. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building Gode under the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina State Building Gode under standards which shall be developed by the Building Code Council, Code, subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care homes, including facilities operated in a private residence. Standards are laws and force finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building Code to subtantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Bui	3	"§ 110-91. Mandatory standards for a license.
6 standards in this section apply to the school-age children of the operator of a child care facility 7 but do apply to the preschool-age children of the operator of a child care facility 8 but do apply to the preschool-age children of the operator. Children 13 years of age or older may 7 receive child care on a voluntary basis provided all applicable required standards are met. The 8 standards in this section, along with any other applicable State laws and federal laws or local 9 ordinances, shall be the required standards for the issuance of a license by the Secretary under 10 adopt less stringent standards for the licensing of facilities which provide care on a temporary, 11 part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis. 12 13 adopt less stringent standards with shall be developed by the Building Code conneit, Code, 14 standards which shall be developed by the Building Code Councit, Code, 19 subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, a local 12 These standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local 12 building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate 13 added enforcement officer shall approve intended, is at least 14 equivalent o		1 5
7 standards in this section apply to the school-age children of the operator. Children 13 years of age or older may 9 receive child care on a voluntary basis provided all applicable required standards are met. The 9 standards in this section, along with any other applicable state laws and federal laws or local 11 ordinances, shall be the required standards for the issuance of a license by the Secretary under 12 the policies and procedures of the Commission except that the Commission may, in its discretion, 13 adopt less stringent standards for the licensing of facilities which provide care on a temporary, 14 part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis. 15 16 (4) 18 building. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building which meets 16 (4) 17 subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, 18 standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local 19 subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, 21 These standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local 22 building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate 23 material, design, o		
8 but do apply to the preschool-age children of the operator. Children 13 years of age or older may 9 receive child care on a voluntary basis provided all applicable required standards are met. The 10 standards in this section, along with any other applicable State laws and federal laws or local 11 ordinances, shall be the required standards for the issuance of a license by the Secretary under 12 the policies and procedures of the Commission except that the Commission may, in its discretion, 13 adopt less stringent standards for the licensing of facilities which provide care on a temporary, 13 part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis. 15 16 (4) Building. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building which meets 17 the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina State Building Code under 18 standards which shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local 19 subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, including facilities operated in a private residence- as family child care homes. 21 These standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local 22 building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate 24 enforcement officer finds that the alter		
9 receive child care on a voluntary basis provided all applicable required standards are met. The standards in this section, along with any other applicable State laws and federal laws or local ordinances, shall be the required standards for the issuance of a license by the Secretary under the policies and procedures of the Commission except that the Commission may, in its discretion, adopt less stringent standards for the licensing of facilities which provide care on a temporary, part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis. 16 (4) Building. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building which meets the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina <u>State</u> Building Code under standards which shall be developed by the Building Code conneil, Code, subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, including facilities operated in a private residence, as family child care homes, including code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code enforcement officer finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be care contributed to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child Care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously approved for child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance and whenever renovations are made to a child care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously approved for child care facilities as established by the Department. Except 90<		
 standards in this section, along with any other applicable State laws and federal laws or local ordinances, shall be the required standards for the issuance of a license by the Secretary under the policies and procedures of the Commission except that the Commission may, in its discretion, adopt less stringent standards for the licensing of facilities which provide care on a temporary, part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis. (4) Building. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building which meets the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina <u>State</u> Building Code under standards which shall be developed by the Building Code Council, Code, subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, including facilities operated in a private residence. as family child care homes, including facilities operated in a private residence. as family child care homes, including code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously approved for child care. (5) Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that apply to child care centers located on State property, each child care cent		
11 ordinances, shall be the required standards for the issuance of a license by the Secretary under 12 the policies and procedures of the Commission except that the Commission may, in its discretion, 13 adopt less stringent standards for the licensing of facilities which provide care on a temporary, 14 part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis. 15 16 (4) Building. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building which meets 17 the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina <u>State</u> Building <u>Code under</u> 18 standards which shall be developed by the Building <u>Code concil.</u> <u>Code</u> , 19 subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, 20 including facilities operated in a private residence- as family child care homes. 21 These standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local 22 building code enforcement officer shall approve any propose intended, is at least 23 the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality, 24 enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be 25 the equivalent of the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written 26 submitted to substantiate any claim m		
 the policies and procedures of the Commission except that the Commission may, in its discretion, adopt less stringent standards for the licensing of facilities which provide care on a temporary, part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis. Building. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building which meets the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina <u>State</u> Building <u>Code under</u> standards which shall be developed by the Building <u>Code Council, Code</u>. subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, including facilities operated in a private residence- as family child care homes. These standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code enforcement officer finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child Care Commission may request changes to the <u>North Carolina State</u> Building Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously approved for child care. (5) Fire Prevention. – Each child care facilities alticht meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that apply to child care centers located o		
13 adopt less stringent standards for the licensing of facilities which provide care on a temporary, part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis. 15 16 (4) 18 Building. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building which meets the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina <u>State</u> Building <u>Code under standards which shall be developed by the Building Code Council, Code</u> , subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, including facilities operated in a private residence. as family child care homes. 20 including facilities operated in a private residence. as family child care homes. 21 These standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child Care Commission may request changes to the <u>North Carolina State</u> Building 20 Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously approved for child care. 23 (5) Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that apply to child car		
14 part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis. 15 16 (4) Building. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building which meets the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina <u>State</u> Building <u>Code Council, Code</u> . 17 the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina <u>State</u> Building <u>Code Council, Code</u> . 18 subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, including facilities operated in a private residence, as family child care homes. 21 These standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code enforcement officer finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously approved for child care. 18 5 (5) Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that meets appropriate r		
15 16 (4) Building. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building which meets the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina <u>State Building Code under</u> standards which shall be developed by the Building Code Council, <u>Code</u> . 18 standards which shall be developed by the Building Code Council, <u>Code</u> . 19 subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, including facilities operated in a private residence. as family child care homes. 20 including code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code enforcement officer finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously approved for child care. 15 Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that apply to child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be inspected at least annually by a local fire department		
 (4) Building. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building which meets the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina <u>State</u> Building <u>Code under</u> standards which shall be developed by the Building Code Council, <u>Code</u>. (19) subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, including facilities operated in a private residence, as family child care homes. These standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code enforcement officer finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child Care Commission may request changes to the <u>North Carolina State</u> Building Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required prior to the issuance of a license and whenever nerovations are made to a child care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously approved for child care. (5) Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that apply to child care centers located on State property, each child care center slocated on State property shall be inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire department for compliance with these requirements. Child care center slocated on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated by the Department of Insurance_Office of the State Fire Marshal. 		part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis.
17the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina State Building Code under standards which shall be developed by the Building Code Council, Code, subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities, including facilities operated in a private residence- as family child care homes. These standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code enforcement officer finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously approved for child care.55(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that apply to child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunter fire department for compliance with these requirements Child care center slalled do state property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated by the Department of located hesignated do state property shall be inspe		$(A) \qquad \qquad$
18standards which shall be developed by the Building Code Council, Code,19subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities,20including facilities operated in a private residence, as family child care homes,21These standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local22building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate23material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code24enforcement officer finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least25the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality,26strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building27code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be28submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child29Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building30Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written31reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required33gaproved for child care.34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that36meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that37apply to child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39<		
19subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities,20including facilities operated in a private residence. as family child care homes.21These standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local22building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate23material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code24enforcement officer finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least25the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality,26strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building27code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be28submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child29Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building30Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written31reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required33prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that36meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that37apply to child care facilities as established by the Department. Except38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39for child care centers located on State property, each c		
20including facilities operated in a private residence. as family child care homes.21These standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local22building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate23material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code24enforcement officer finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least25the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality,26strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building27code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be28submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child29Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building30Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written31reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required33prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that37apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements.		
21These standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local22building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate23material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code24enforcement officer finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least25the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality,26strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building27code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be28submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child29Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building30Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written31reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required32prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child33care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department of Insurance39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located43by the Department of Insurance.Office of the Stat		
22building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate23material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code24enforcement officer finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least25the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality,26strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building27code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be28submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child29Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building30Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written31reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required32prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child33care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that36meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that37apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child car		
23material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code24enforcement officer finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least25the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality,26strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building27code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be28submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child29Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building30Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written31reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required32prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child33care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that36meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that37apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located42on State property shall be inspected at least annuall		1
24enforcement officer finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least25the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality,26strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building27code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be28submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child29Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building30Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written31reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required32prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child33care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that36meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that37apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located43by the Department of Insurance.Office of the State Fire Marshal.		
25the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality,26strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building27code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be28submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child29Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building30Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written31reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required32prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child33care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that36meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that37apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located43by the Department of Insurance.Office of the State Fire Marshal.		
26strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building27code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be28submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child29Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building30Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written31reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required32prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child33care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that36meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that37apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located42on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated43by the Department of Insurance.Office of the State Fire Marshal.		
27code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be28submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child29Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building30Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written31reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required32prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child33care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that36meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that37apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located42on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated43by the Department of Insurance.Office of the State Fire Marshal.		
29Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building30Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written31reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required32prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child33care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that36meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that37apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located42on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated43by the Department of Insurance.Office of the State Fire Marshal.	27	
30Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written31reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required32prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child33care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that36meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that37apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located42on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated43by the Department of Insurance.Office of the State Fire Marshal.	28	submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child
31reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required32prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child33care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that36meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that37apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located42on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated43by the Department of Insurance.Office of the State Fire Marshal.	29	Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building
32Prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child33care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that36meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that37apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located43by the Department of Insurance.Office of the State Fire Marshal.	30	Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written
33care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously34approved for child care.35(5)Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that36meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that37apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located42on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated43by the Department of Insurance.Office of the State Fire Marshal.		
34approved for child care.35(5)5Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated by the Department of Insurance.Office of the State Fire Marshal.		
 (5) Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated by the Department of Insurance. Office of the State Fire Marshal. 		
36meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated by the Department of Insurance. Office of the State Fire Marshal.		11
37apply to child care facilities as established by the Department of Insurance38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located42on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated43by the Department of Insurance. Office of the State Fire Marshal.		
38Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located42on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated43by the Department of Insurance. Office of the State Fire Marshal.		
39for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be40inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire41department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located42on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated43by the Department of Insurance. Office of the State Fire Marshal.		
 inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated by the Department of Insurance. Office of the State Fire Marshal. 		
 41 department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located 42 on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated 43 by the Department of Insurance. Office of the State Fire Marshal. 		
 42 on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated 43 by the Department of Insurance. Office of the State Fire Marshal. 		
43 by the Department of Insurance. Office of the State Fire Marshal.		
44"		"
45 SECTION 4.(c) Section 8 of S.L. 2024-34 is amended by adding a new subsection		
46 to read:		
47 "SECTION 8.(a1) In modifying the quality rating improvement system (QRIS), the Division		
48 of Child Development and Early Education shall ensure a North Carolina Early Childhood		
49 Credential based on five years of work experience in a licensed child care facility in this State is	49	· · ·
50 treated as equivalent to when that credential is earned through other pathways for purposes of	50	treated as equivalent to when that credential is earned through other pathways for purposes of
51 <u>awarding a star rating.</u> "	51	awarding a star rating."

1SECTION 4.(d) G.S. 110-91(8) reads as rewritten:2"(8)Qualifications for Staff. – Qualifications for child care staff are as follows:3a.All child care center administrators shall be at least 21 years of age.4All child care center administrators shall have the North Carolina5Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent as6determined by the Department. All child care administrators7performing administrative duties as of the date this act becomes law8and child care administrators who assume administrative duties at any9time after this act becomes law and until September 1, 1998, shall10obtain the required credential by September 1, 2000. Child care11administrators who assume administrative duties after September 1,121998, shall begin working toward the completion of the North Carolina13Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent within six14months after assuming administrative duties and shall complete the15credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work to16complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the17direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All		General Assembly Of N	orth Carolina	Session 2025
3a.All child care center administrators shall be at least 21 years of age.4All child care center administrators shall have the North Carolina5Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent as6determined by the Department. All child care administrators7performing administrative duties as of the date this act becomes law8and child care administrators who assume administrative duties at any9time after this act becomes law and until September 1, 1998, shall10obtain the required credential by September 1, 2000. Child care11administrators who assume administrative duties after September 1,121998, shall begin working toward the completion of the North Carolina13Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent within six14months after assuming administrative duties and shall complete the15credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work to16complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the17direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All	1	SECTION 4 .	(d) G.S. 110-91(8) reads as rewritten:	
3a.All child care center administrators shall be at least 21 years of age.4All child care center administrators shall have the North Carolina5Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent as6determined by the Department. All child care administrators7performing administrative duties as of the date this act becomes law8and child care administrators who assume administrative duties at any9time after this act becomes law and until September 1, 1998, shall10obtain the required credential by September 1, 2000. Child care11administrators who assume administrative duties after September 1,121998, shall begin working toward the completion of the North Carolina13Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent within six14months after assuming administrative duties and shall complete the15credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work to16complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the17direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All	2			re as follows:
5Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent as determined by the Department. All child care administrators performing administrative duties as of the date this act becomes law and child care administrators who assume administrative duties at any time after this act becomes law and until September 1, 1998, shall obtain the required credential by September 1, 2000. Child care administrators who assume administrative duties after September 1, 12 1998, shall begin working toward the completion of the North Carolina Early Childhood Administrative duties and shall complete the credential or its equivalent within six months after assuming administrative duties and shall complete the credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work to complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All	3			
6determined by the Department. All child care administrators7performing administrative duties as of the date this act becomes law8and child care administrators who assume administrative duties at any9time after this act becomes law and until September 1, 1998, shall10obtain the required credential by September 1, 2000. Child care11administrators who assume administrative duties after September 1,121998, shall begin working toward the completion of the North Carolina13Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent within six14months after assuming administrative duties and shall complete the15credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work to16complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the17direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All	4		All child care center administrators shall have the	North Carolina
7performing administrative duties as of the date this act becomes law and child care administrators who assume administrative duties at any time after this act becomes law and until September 1, 1998, shall obtain the required credential by September 1, 2000. Child care administrators who assume administrative duties after September 1, 1998, shall begin working toward the completion of the North Carolina Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent within six months after assuming administrative duties and shall complete the credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work to complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All	5		Early Childhood Administration Credential or its	s equivalent as
8 and child care administrators who assume administrative duties at any 9 time after this act becomes law and until September 1, 1998, shall 10 obtain the required credential by September 1, 2000. Child care 11 administrators who assume administrative duties after September 1, 12 1998, shall begin working toward the completion of the North Carolina 13 Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent within six 14 months after assuming administrative duties and shall complete the 15 credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work to 16 complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the 17 direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All	6		determined by the Department. All child care	administrators
9time after this act becomes law and until September 1, 1998, shall10obtain the required credential by September 1, 2000. Child care11administrators who assume administrative duties after September 1,121998, shall begin working toward the completion of the North Carolina13Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent within six14months after assuming administrative duties and shall complete the15credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work to16complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the17direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All			performing administrative duties as of the date this a	act becomes law
10obtain the required credential by September 1, 2000. Child care11administrators who assume administrative duties after September 1,121998, shall begin working toward the completion of the North Carolina13Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent within six14months after assuming administrative duties and shall complete the15credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work to16complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the17direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All			and child care administrators who assume administrat	ive duties at any
11administrators who assume administrative duties after September 1,121998, shall begin working toward the completion of the North Carolina13Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent within six14months after assuming administrative duties and shall complete the15credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work to16complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the17direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All			-	
121998, shall begin working toward the completion of the North Carolina13Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent within six14months after assuming administrative duties and shall complete the15credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work to16complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the17direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All				
13Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent within six14months after assuming administrative duties and shall complete the15credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work to16complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the17direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All				-
14months after assuming administrative duties and shall complete the15credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work to16complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the17direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All			• • •	
15credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work to16complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the17direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All			•	
16complete the credential. Each child care center shall be under the17direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All			-	-
17 direction or supervision of a person meeting these requirements. All				
			•	
				-
18 staff counted toward meeting the required staff-child ratio shall be at			e 1	
19least 16 years of age, provided that persons younger than 18 years of age work under the direct supervision of a credentialed staff person				-
20age work under the direct supervision of a credentialed staff person21who is at least 21 years of age.				lied starr person
22 <u>b.</u> All lead teachers in a child care center shall have at least a North		h		at least a North
23 Carolina Early Childhood Credential or its equivalent as determined		<u>0.</u>		
24 by the Department. Lead teachers shall <u>either (i)</u> be enrolled in the			•	
25 North Carolina Early Childhood Credential coursework or its			• •	
26 equivalent as determined by the Department within six months after			•	
27 becoming employed as a lead teacher or within six months after this				
28 act becomes law, whichever is later, and shall complete the credential	28		• • •	
29 or its equivalent within 18 months after enrollment.enrollment or (ii)	29			
30 <u>have a minimum of five years of documented experience teaching in a</u>	30		have a minimum of five years of documented experience	nce teaching in a
31 licensed child care facility in this State which shall be deemed				
32 equivalent to the North Carolina Early Childhood Credential.				
33 <u>c.</u> For child care centers licensed to care for 200 or more children, the		<u>c.</u>		
34 Department, in collaboration with the North Carolina Institute for			▲ ·	
35 Early Childhood Professional Development, shall establish categories			•	-
to recognize the levels of education achieved by child care center			•	
 administrators and teachers who perform administrative functions. The Department shall use these categories to establish appropriate 			1	
38The Department shall use these categories to establish appropriate39staffing based on the size of the center and the individual staff				
40 responsibilities.			6	marviauai stari
41 <u>d.</u> Effective January 1, 1998, an operator of a licensed family child care		b	1	amily child care
42 Effective failuary 1, 1998, an operator of a needsed failing efficiency of a needsed failing efficience failing efficience failing efficience failing effic		<u>u.</u>		•
43 its equivalent. Operators of a family child care home licensed prior to			•	-
44 January 1, 1998, shall be at least 18 years of age and literate. Literate				-
45 is defined as understanding licensing requirements and having the				
46 ability to communicate with the family and relevant emergency				
47 personnel. Any operator of a licensed family child care home shall be				
48 the person on-site providing child care.	48			
49 <u>e.</u> The Commission shall adopt standards to establish appropriate	49	<u>e.</u>		lish appropriate
50 qualifications for all staff in child care centers. These standards shall			-	
51 reflect training, experience, education and credentialing and shall be	51		reflect training, experience, education and credential	ing and shall be

General Assembly Of North C	arolina	Session 2025
appro respon childr G.S. 1 doctri qualif religio SECTION 4.(e) G.S "a. The C staff-c infant than th 156(e)	priate for the size center and nsibilities. It is the intent of thi en in child care are cared for h 10-106, no requirements may ne of any established relig ication requirements of this bus-sponsored child care faciliti S. 110-91(7)a. reads as rewritter Commission shall adopt rules the child ratios, group sizes and mu s and toddlers, provided that the nose currently required for staff-) of Chapter 757 of the 1985 Se	the for child care centers regarding alti-age groupings other than for use rules shall be no less stringent achild ratios as enacted in Section ssion Laws.
1.		ded in this subdivision, the
	• •	sizes for infants and toddlers in no <u>more less stringent</u> than as
Age	Ratio Staff/Children	Group Size
0 to 12 month		10<u>15</u>
12 to 24 mon		<u>+218</u>
2 to 3 years	1/10	20.
		for more than 25 children in one
	• •	roviding care for 26 or more
	-	or more groups according to the
	-	provide separate supervisory
1	personnel and separate identif	
<u>1a.</u>		ating under voluntary enhanced
	-	group size for toddlers aged 2 to 18 to 20 children when the child
	<u>care center maintains a 1/9 sta</u>	
1b.		ting under the highest voluntary
<u>101</u>	-	child care center may use the
	=	tes for infants and toddlers when
		ns staff-child ratios as provided
	herein:	*
Age	<u>Ratio Staff/Children</u>	<u>Group Size</u>
<u>0 to 12 month</u>		<u>12</u>
<u>12 to 24 mon</u>	<u>ths</u> <u>1/5</u>	<u>15</u>
2 to 3 years	<u>1/8</u>	<u>20.</u>
"		
	-	man Services, Division of Child
		vith the Child Care Commission,
•	governing multiuse child care	e centers to ensure each of the
following:		
	• •	multiunit child care centers and
	ltiunit child care centers.	equirements outlined in the rules
•••		child care center based on the
	e used by each owner.	enne care center based on the
		nd are awarded a license by the
Division shall be considered elig		

PART V. SCHOOL-AGE FLEXIBILITIES

1 2

3

4

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31 32

33

34

35

36

37 38

39

40

41 42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

SECTION 5.(a) G.S. 110-91 reads as rewritten:

"§ 110-91. Mandatory standards for a license.

5 All child care facilities shall comply with all State laws and federal laws and local ordinances 6 that pertain to child health, safety, and welfare. Except as otherwise provided in this Article, the 7 standards in this section shall be complied with by all child care facilities. However, none 8 Notwithstanding any provision of law or rule to the contrary, any building and grounds which 9 are currently approved for school occupancy and which house a public or private elementary or middle school shall be deemed to have met the space and equipment, sanitation, fire, and building 10 11 code requirements for a licensed child care facility when the building and grounds are serving the same, or a subset of the same, school-age children in an out-of-school child care program. 12 13 None of the standards in this section apply to the school-age children of the operator of a child 14 care facility but do apply to the preschool-age children of the operator. Children 13 years of age or older may receive child care on a voluntary basis provided all applicable required standards 15 are met. The standards in this section, along with any other applicable State laws and federal laws 16 17 or local ordinances, shall be the required standards for the issuance of a license by the Secretary 18 under the policies and procedures of the Commission except that the Commission may, in its 19 discretion, adopt less stringent standards for the licensing of facilities which provide care on a 20 temporary, part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis.

(6) Space and Equipment Requirements. – There shall be no less than 25 square feet of indoor space for each child for which a child care center is licensed, exclusive of closets, passageways, kitchens, and bathrooms, and this floor space shall provide during rest periods 200 cubic feet of airspace per child for which the center is licensed. There shall be adequate outdoor play area for each child under rules adopted by the Commission which shall be related to the size of center and the availability and location of outside land area. In no event shall the minimum required exceed 75 square feet per child. The outdoor area shall be protected to assure the safety of the children receiving child care by an adequate fence or other protection. A center operated in a public school shall be deemed to have adequate fencing protection. A center operating exclusively during the evening and early morning hours, between 6:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M., need not meet the outdoor play area requirements mandated by this subdivision.

Each child care facility shall provide indoor area equipment and furnishings that are child size, sturdy, safe, and in good repair. Each child care facility that provides outdoor area equipment and furnishings shall provide outdoor area equipment and furnishings that are child size, sturdy, free of hazards that pose a threat of serious injury to children while engaged in normal play activities, and in good repair. The Commission shall adopt standards to establish minimum requirements for equipment appropriate for the size of child care facility. Space shall be available for proper storage of beds, cribs, mats, cots, sleeping garments, and linens as well as designated space for each child's personal belongings.

The Division of Child Development of the Department of Health and Human Services shall establish and implement a policy that defines any building which is currently approved for school occupancy and which houses a public or private elementary <u>or middle</u> school to include the playgrounds and athletic fields as part of the school building when that building is used to serve school-age children in <u>after-school_out-of-school</u> child care programs.

	General Assemb	oly Of N	North Carolina	Session 2025
1 2 3 4		athleti promu	rounds-Except as otherwise provided in this section, just fields referenced in this section that do not meet lice algated by the North Carolina Child Care Commission so ogram's licensure and rating information.	ensure standards
5	"			
6			.(b) The Child Care Commission shall adopt or ame	•
7		•	onsistency in application of the exemptions for school	l-age children in
8			programs as provided in this section.	
9	SECT	FION 5	(c) G.S. 110-91(8), as amended by Section 4(d) of t	his act, reads as
10	rewritten:			
11	"(8)	Qualit	fications for Staff. – Qualifications for child care staff a	
12		a.	All child care center administrators shall be at least	
13			All child care center administrators shall have the	
14			Early Childhood Administration Credential or it	
15			determined by the Department. Department of	
16			Administration Credential when exclusively provi	
17			child care. All child care administrators performin	0
18			duties as of the date this act becomes law and child can	
19			who assume administrative duties at any time after t	
20			law and until September 1, 1998, shall obtain the rec	-
21			by September 1, 2000. Child care administrator	
22			administrative duties after September 1, 1998, shal	
23			toward the completion of the North Carolina E	•
24			Administration Credential or its equivalent equ	
25 26			School-Age Administration Credential when exclusion	
26 27			school-age child care, within six months after assumir	•
27			duties and shall complete the credential or its equiv- years after beginning work to complete the credential	
28 29			center shall be under the direction or supervision of a	
29 30			these requirements. All staff counted toward meeti	
30 31			staff-child ratio shall be at least 16 years of age, provi	
32			younger than 18 years of age work under the direct	-
33			credentialed staff person who is at least 21 years of a	-
33 34		b.	All lead teachers in a child care center shall have	-
35		0.	Carolina Early Childhood Credential or its equivaler	
36			by the Department. Lead teachers shall either (i) be	
37			North Carolina Early Childhood Credential cou	
38			equivalent as determined by the Department within	
39			becoming employed as a lead teacher or within six r	
40			act becomes law, whichever is later, and shall complete	
41			or its equivalent within 18 months after enrollmen	
42			minimum of five years of documented experience	
43			licensed child care facility in this State which s	-
44			equivalent to the North Carolina Early Childhood Cre	
45		c.	For child care centers licensed to care for 200 or me	
46			Department, in collaboration with the North Carol	
47			Early Childhood Professional Development, shall esta	
48			to recognize the levels of education achieved by c	-
49			administrators and teachers who perform administr	
50			The Department shall use these categories to estab	

	General Assembly Of N	orth Carolina	Session 2025
1		staffing based on the size of the cente	r and the individual staff
2	,	responsibilities.	
3	d.	Effective January 1, 1998, an operator of a	
4		home shall be at least 21 years old and hav	
5 6		its equivalent. Operators of a family child	
0 7		January 1, 1998, shall be at least 18 years is defined as understanding licensing rec	-
8		ability to communicate with the family	
9		personnel. Any operator of a licensed family	
10		the person on-site providing child care.	ny child care nome shan be
11	e.	The Commission shall adopt standards	to establish appropriate
12	0.	qualifications for all staff in child care cer	
13		reflect training, experience, education and	
14		appropriate for the size center and the	0
15		responsibilities. It is the intent of this pro	
16		children in child care are cared for by qu	e
17		G.S. 110-106, no requirements may inter	
18		doctrine of any established religious	
19		qualification requirements of this subc	livision do not apply to
20		religious-sponsored child care facilities pu	rsuant to G.S. 110-106."
21	SECTION 5.	(d) G.S. 110-98.5 reads as rewritten:	
22		chool-age children during state of emerge	÷
23	•••	provision of law or rule to the contrary, whe	0
24	-	ared state of emergency issued under G.S.	166A-19.20, the following
25	shall apply:		
26			
27	· · · · ·	rovided to school-age children pursuant to the	
28 29		care as defined under G.S. 110-86. <u>However</u> to the state of emergency, it shall be deemed	1 0
29 30	-	ency whether it expands its capacity to	
31	•	ency whether it expands its capacity to en so long as it adheres to the staff-child rati	-
32		5.(e) The Weikart Youth Program Qua	
33		as an assessment tool for evaluating out-of-	•
34	0	ting. The Department of Health and Human	1 0
35	-	Education, shall complete the necessary c	
36		ve it available for applicants to use not later	
37	this act becomes law.		,
38			
39	PART VI. ESTAB	LISH WORKGROUP TO EXAM	INE STREAMLINING
40	-	UIREMENTS FOR PHYSICAL STRUC	CTURES OF LICENSED
41	CHILD CARE FACILI		
42		(a) The Division of Child Development	•
43		the Licensed Childcare Licensure Workgro	
44		related to the physical structures of license	
45		of at least one representative from each of the	
46 47		ivision of Child Development and Early Ed ffice of the State Fire Marshal.	ucation.
47	()	epartment of Insurance.	
40 49		orth Carolina Building Code Council.	
49 50		ivision of Public Health.	
50 51		eague of Municipalities.	
<i>C</i> 1			

	General Assembly Of North Carolina Session 2025
1	(7) The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.
2	(8) N.C. Licensed Child Care Association.
3	(9) The North Carolina Child Care Commission.
4	(10) Other representatives deemed necessary by the Division.
5	The Division shall appoint two individuals to serve as cochairs of the workgroup.
6	Each entity above shall choose the individual or individuals to serve on the workgroup
7	in a number to be determined by the Division.
8	SECTION 6.(b) The workgroup shall develop findings and recommendations related
9	to at least the following:
10	(1) Streamlining the regulatory requirements related to the physical structures of
11	licensed child care facilities, including building codes, fire codes, and
12	sanitation codes.
13	(2) Resolving conflicts between various code requirements for licensed child care
14	facilities.
15	SECTION 6.(c) The Division of Child Development and Early Education shall
16	report the findings and recommendations of the workgroup to the Joint Legislative Oversight
17	Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
18	General Government, and the Fiscal Research Division no later than one year after this act
19	becomes law.
20	SECTION 7. This act is effective when it becomes law.