

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

SENATE BILL 194

By: Senators Bledsoe, B. Davis, Irvin

By: Representatives Bentley, Barker, Brown, Capp, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Dalby, Della Rosa, C. Fite, Lundstrum, J. Mayberry, McKenzie, Petty, Rushing, Speaks, Vaught

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

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

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) Minimum licensing requirements for a licensed home;

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

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

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

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

(F) Voluntary registry of day care family homes;

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

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

(i) Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program;

(ii) Community Development Block Grant;

(iii) Child and Adult Care Food Program;

(iv) Child Care and Development Block Grant;

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

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

SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Report.

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

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

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