

Senate Bill No. 1112

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
Why is the legislation being introduced?	<p>The needs of Idaho’s working families have increased. The number of families using child care for work or school has dramatically increased in the past 15 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is estimated that 70% of child care providers are not required to pass a criminal history check. • Over half of the child care settings statewide are not currently required to maintain minimal health and fire safety guidelines. • 3 out of 5 children under the age of 5 are now in child care settings. That equates to 70,165 children statewide.(Census, 2000 data) <p>The current lack of adequate standards for child care puts children at risk and denies parents access to safe and health child care settings for their children.</p>
How will this bill change the current licensing guidelines?	<p>Requires providers caring for 4 or more children to have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a criminal history check • a health inspection • a fire inspection • current 1st Aid/CPR • 8 hours of continuing education a year. • Provides increased safety ratio guidelines based on type of provider and age of children in attendance.
How much will licensure cost providers annually?	<p>Licensure fees will be based on the actual cost of providing the service. This language ensures that the provider does not pay fees that exceed actual costs. License fees are a tax deductible expense for providers. The proposed fee language also demonstrates fiscal responsibility by minimizing cost to the general fund.</p>

<p>How does this bill benefit parents?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents have the assurance that the licensed child care provider they have chosen has passed a criminal history check and the child care setting meets minimum health and safety guidelines. • Children will be in child care settings that do not compromise their safety. • Parents will have an additional tool to use to determine if a provider is appropriate for their family’s needs. • Child care fees will not be impacted by licensure. There is not currently a difference between fees charged by licensed and unlicensed providers. Fees are generally developed by each provider using the most recent local market survey performed by the Idaho Child Care Program.
<p>How does this bill benefit child care providers?</p>	<p>Through licensure this bill will allow providers to actually increase their program capacity to serve more children. The amount of that increase will vary due to local planning and zoning ordinances.</p> <p>The bill also guarantees that license fees will not exceed the actual cost of providing the license service with a sliding fee scale depending on the number of children the provider chooses to provide services to.</p>
<p>What about supply and demand in rural areas?</p>	<p>Capacity will increase as currently unlicensed providers can only care for up to 6 children. This bill will allow these providers to double their current capacity to 12 children without adding additional staff.</p> <p>Rural areas will reap the benefit of a child care system that allows their residents access to safe and healthy child care choices regardless of their residence or income.</p> <p>This increases child care options for families and more than doubles community capacity for child care.</p>
<p>Can local option meet the health and safety needs of children in child care?</p>	<p>Local option was never intended to negate the state of Idaho’s stated policy to “establish a minimum statewide system for the protection of children in day care centers.” Currently there are only 9 cities statewide that have the infrastructure and fiscal ability to establish and maintain local child care</p>

	<p>ordinances.</p> <p>While many cities are open to exercising their local option but they lack the funding to implement a local licensing system. These municipalities and their residents depend on the state to license child care providers.</p>
<p>How does the proposed staff/child ratios compare with current state ratios?</p>	<p><i>Current staff/child ratios:</i> Birth to 18 months – 1 staff to 6 infants 18 months to 5 years – 1 staff to 12 children; Over 5 years – 1 staff to 18 children. No restriction on the number of children allowed in a group or codified ratio for mixed age groups.</p> <p><i>Proposed staff/child ratios:</i> Birth to 24 months – 1 staff to 6 infants 24 months to 3 years – 1 staff to 8 children 3 years to 4 years – 1 staff to 10 children 4 years to 5 years – 1 staff to 12 children Over 5 years – 1 staff to 18 children</p> <p>Maximum group size not to exceed twice the staff/child ratio for a single age group. For example: No more than 12 infants allowed in a single group.</p> <p>Mixed age group ratio determined by the age of the youngest child in attendance in the group.</p> <p>Group daycare facilities shall have a maximum allowable child:staff ratio based on the age of the children in attendance. The maximum group size is twelve (12) children. If more than two (2) children are in attendance under the age of two (2) years, the maximum group size shall be ten (10) children. If three (3) or more children under the age of two (2) years are in attendance, the maximum group size shall be nine (9) children.</p> <p>Family daycare homes shall not provide daycare services for more than six (6) children at a time.</p>

<p>How does the ratios in S1112 compare to ratios in local municipalities that have ratio guidelines that exceed current licensing standards?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>City of CDA</i></p> <p>Birth to 24 months – 1 staff to 6 infants 2 years to 3 years – 1 staff to 10 children 4 years and older – 1 staff to 12 children Mixed age groups are limited to no more than 9 children per staff member.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>City of Boise</i></p> <p>Birth to 24 months – 1 staff to 6 infants 2 years to 3 years – 1 staff to 10 children 4 years and older – 1 staff to 12 children</p> <p>Mixed age groups follow a point system with points allocated based on the age of the child with a maximum allowance of 10 points per staff person. Child under 2 years – 2 points Child 2-3 years – 1 point Child above 4 yeas – ½ point</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>City of Pocatello</i></p> <p>Allows for no more than a staff/child ratio of 1:12 with the following point system to determine the number of children based on age: Birth to 12 months = 2 children</p> <p>Up to 2 of the provider’s own children are excluded from the staff/child ratio as long as the provider is on the premises; Provider is allowed to care for no more than 3 school age children over the 1:12 ratio due to school closure for no more than 2 consecutive days without adding additional staff.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>City of Lewiston</i></p> <p>Ratios determined by type of setting: <i>Family child care</i> -1 staff to 6 children except when school is out then ratio increases to 1 staff to 12 without changing licensure designation. <i>Group day care</i> – 1 staff to 6 children <i>Child care center</i> – 1 staff to 10 children Preschool age – 1 staff to 12 children</p>
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