

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 9-291.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Commission on Early*
3 *Childhood and Child Day Care Programs.*

4 [H 331]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 9-291.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 9-291.1. Commission created; powers and duties; appointment and terms of members; vacancies,
9 etc.

10 A. There is hereby created the Commission on Early Childhood and Child Day Care Programs,
11 hereinafter referred to as the Commission. The purpose of the Commission shall be, through its powers
12 and performance of duties set forth in this chapter, to study and provide recommendations addressing the
13 need for quality developmental early childhood and child day care programs and services. In so doing, it
14 shall encourage the development of uniform policies and services to ensure the availability of quality,
15 affordable and accessible early childhood and child day care programs and provide a forum for
16 continuing the review and study of such programs and services. In addition to its own proposals, the
17 Commission shall coordinate the proposals and recommendations of all commissions and agencies as to
18 legislation affecting such programs and services.

19 B. The Commission shall be composed of twenty members. The first members of the Commission so
20 to serve shall be the members of the Joint Commission on Health Care Studying Early Childhood and
21 Day Care Programs who served from January 1, 1990, to December 31, 1990. Thereafter, appointments
22 shall be made as follows: seven members from the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker
23 of the House; four members from the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and
24 Elections; and three citizens to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a representative of
25 the business community, and one of whom shall be a representative of local government. In addition,
26 the Commissioner of Social Services, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Director of the State
27 Council of Higher Education, the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, the Executive
28 Director of the Virginia Council on Child Day Care and Early Childhood Programs, and the Chairman
29 of the Child Day Care Council shall serve as ex officio members with full voting privileges. The
30 members of the Commission shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman annually.

31 All such members of the Commission shall serve until the expiration of their terms of office or until
32 their successors shall qualify. However, the appointments of citizen members shall be for a term of five
33 years. Subsequent appointments shall be made for similar terms, and vacancies shall be filled for the
34 unexpired terms by the persons authorized to make the original appointments.

35 Commission members shall be compensated as specified in § 14.1-18, and shall be reimbursed for
36 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

37 C. The Commission shall have the power and duty to:

38 1. Determine the number of at-risk four-year-olds in the Commonwealth and the number of such
39 children who are not enrolled in developmental early childhood or child day care programs;

40 2. Determine the number of school age children in the Commonwealth and the extent of the need for
41 public school day care programs;

42 3. Develop a mechanism for the phased integration of and funding for quality developmental early
43 childhood and child day care programs;

44 4. Assess the need for additional child day care services, and the types of program options desired by
45 families, including the need for employer-sponsored child day care services for state employees;

46 5. Recommend ways to promote significant parental, state and local, public-private sector, and
47 corporate involvement in and support of early childhood and child day care programs;

48 6. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of programs to provide appropriate education and
49 training for early childhood professionals and child day care providers;

50 7. Recommend eligibility criteria for participation in and appropriate ways by which early childhood
51 and day care programs may be provided which minimize the potentiality for competition between the
52 Commonwealth and private day care providers;

53 8. Review the status of agency efforts to promote the coordination and dissemination of child care
54 information and day care services;

55 9. Develop incentives to promote the recruitment and retention of qualified early childhood
56 professionals and child day care providers;

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10. Review the provisions of and monitor the implementation of the Family Support Act of 1988, the Child Care Act, P.L. 101-508, the Head Start Authorization Increase, P.L. 101-120, and such other federal legislation and regulations concerning early childhood and child day care programs as may be enacted, and recommend such amendments to relevant state statutes as may be necessary to ensure consistency between state and federal law and regulations;

11. Analyze the several policy and legal issues related to early childhood and day care programs, e.g., establishment of entitlement programs, effect on the compulsory school attendance laws, modifications in licensing requirements, and program content, and determine the need for the development of appropriate policy or changes in current state policy and laws pertaining to such issues;

12. Determine the appropriate mechanism for and level of funding necessary to assist low income families and the working poor in obtaining quality, affordable child day care services, including the impact of any state, local, or federal fiscal exigency on early childhood and child day care programs and services;

13. Coordinate the revision and implementation of child day care licensing laws and review such related matters as may be referred to it;

14. Monitor and coordinate health and early intervention programs for young children and such children with special needs to ensure the delivery of appropriate services; and

15. Recommend any statutory, regulatory, or policy changes as it deems necessary to ensure the viability of quality, affordable and accessible early childhood and child day care programs.

D. The Division of Legislative Services shall provide such staff support, both administrative and professional, as the Commission may require. The Commission may request and shall receive from every department, division, board, bureau, commission, authority or other agency created by this Commonwealth, or to which the Commonwealth is party, or from any political subdivision of the Commonwealth, cooperation and assistance as it may deem necessary in the performance of its duties.

E. The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations regarding early childhood and child day care programs and services to the 1992 Session of the General Assembly, and thereafter, report annually on the status and needs concerning such programs and services in the Commonwealth to the Governor and the General Assembly.

F. ~~This section shall expire on July 1, 1996.~~