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HOUSE BILL NO. 2171

Offered January 16, 1997

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 63.1-202.01, relating to ratios of staff to children in licensed child day centers.

Patrons—Connally, Almand, Behm, Brickley, Christian, Crittenden, Darner, Davies, DeBoer, Diamonstein, Dillard, Hull, Keating, McEachin, Moran, Puller, Rhodes, Van Yahres and Watts; Senators: Howell, Ticer, Walker, Whipple and Woods

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 63.1-202.01 as follows:**

§ 63.1-202.01. Staff-to-children ratio requirements in licensed child day centers.

A. For licensed child day centers, the following ratios of staff to children are required wherever children are in care:

1. One staff member to four children from birth to sixteen months.

2. One staff member to five children from ages sixteen months to two years.

3. One staff member to ten children from ages two to four years.

4. One staff member to twelve children from ages four years to the age of eligibility to attend public school which is five years by September 30 of that year. During the summer months only, four-year-old children who will be five by September 30 of that year may be included in a group of school age children if a staff-to-children ratio of one staff member to fifteen children is maintained.

5. One staff member to twenty school-age children.

B. Staff shall be counted in the required staff-to-children ratios only when they are directly supervising children.

C. A child volunteer 14 years of age or older not enrolled in the program shall not be counted as a child in the staff-to-children ratio requirements.

D. When children are regularly in ongoing mixed age groups, the staff-to-children ratio applicable to the youngest child in the group shall apply to the entire group.

E. The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) licensed child day centers licensed under Part IX of Chapter 30 (22 VAC 15-30-680 et seq.) and Part IX of Chapter 40 (22 VAC 15-40-680 et seq.) of Title 22 of the Virginia Administrative Code, as in effect on December 1, 1996, for that portion of the day considered part of the instructional program, or (ii) programs exclusively serving children with disabilities.

F. This section shall expire on July 1, 1998.

INTRODUCED

HB2171