

LD5356721

SENATE BILL NO. 127

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services
on February 14, 1994)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Nolen)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 63.1-196.001 and 63.1-198.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to child day programs.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 63.1-196.001 and 63.1-198.2 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 63.1-196.001. Exemptions from licensure.

A. The following child day programs shall not be required to be licensed:

1. A child day center that has obtained an exemption pursuant to § 63.1-196.3.

2. A program where, by written policy given to and signed by a parent or guardian, children are free to enter and leave the premises without permission or supervision. A program that would qualify for this exemption except that it assumes responsibility for the supervision, protection and well-being of several children with disabilities who are mainstreamed shall not be subject to licensure.

3. A program of instructional experience in a single focus, such as, but not limited to, computer science, archaeology, sport clinics, or music, if children under the age of six do not attend at all and if no child is allowed to attend for more than twenty-five days in any three-month period commencing with enrollment. This exemption does not apply if children merely change their enrollment to a different focus area at a site offering a variety of activities and such children's attendance exceeds twenty-five days in a three-month period.

4. Programs of instructional or recreational activities wherein no child under age six attends for more than six hours weekly with no class or activity period to exceed one and one-half hours, and no child six years of age or above attends for more than six hours weekly when school is in session or twelve hours weekly when school is not in session. Competition, performances and exhibitions related to the instructional or recreational activity shall be excluded when determining the hours of program operation.

5. A program that operates no more than a total of twenty program days in the course of a calendar year provided that programs serving children under age six operate no more than two consecutive weeks without a break of at least a week.

6. Instructional programs offered by public and private schools that satisfy compulsory attendance laws or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and programs of school-sponsored extracurricular activities that are focused on single interests such as, but not limited to, music, sports, drama, civic service, or foreign language.

7. Education and care programs provided by public schools which are not exempt pursuant to subdivision A 6 of this section shall be regulated by the State Board of Education using regulations that incorporate, but may exceed, the regulations for child day centers licensed by the Commissioner.

8. Early intervention programs for children eligible under Part H of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act wherein no child attends for more than a total of six hours per week.

9. Practice or competition in organized competitive sports leagues.

10. Programs of religious instruction, such as Sunday schools, vacation Bible schools, and Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah classes, and child-minding services provided to allow parents or guardians who are on site to attend religious worship or instructional services.

11. Child-minding services which are not available for more than three hours per day for any individual child offered on site in commercial or recreational establishments if the parent or guardian (i) is not an on-duty employee, (ii) can be contacted and can resume responsibility for the child's supervision within thirty minutes, and (iii) is receiving services or participating in activities offered by the establishment.

12. (Effective until July 1, 1994) A certified preschool or nursery school program operated by a private school which is accredited by a statewide accreditation organization recognized by the State Board of Education which complies with the provisions of § 63.1-196.3:1. The provisions of this subdivision shall expire on July 1, 1994.

B. Family day homes that are members of a licensed family day system shall not be required to obtain a license from the Commissioner.

C. Officers, employees, or agents of the Commonwealth, or of any county, city, or town acting within the scope of their authority as such, who serve as or maintain a child-placing agency shall not be required to be licensed.

D. Prescribed therapeutic recreation programs provided for children with disabilities in programs that

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60 meet the child day center definition shall not be subject to licensure under this chapter until the
61 appropriate regulations are promulgated.

62 *E. The State Board of Social Services may, upon formal resolution and request of the local*
63 *governing body of the locality in which the child day center is located, grant an exemption from*
64 *licensure as a child day center to any child day center operated by a parks and recreation program of a*
65 *local government if the State Board determines after public hearings conducted by the State Board in*
66 *the locality that (i) such child day center will not unduly compete with privately operated child day*
67 *centers in the locality and (ii) there is a need for additional child day centers in the locality. The State*
68 *Board may revoke any such exemption for good cause after holding a public hearing on the issue of*
69 *revocation. Any child day center granted an exemption under this subsection shall be inspected annually*
70 *by the local health department and the local fire marshal or Office of the State Fire Marshal, whichever*
71 *is appropriate, and the inspections shall document that the center is in compliance with applicable laws*
72 *and regulations with regard to food service activities, health and sanitation, water supply, building*
73 *codes and the Statewide Fire Prevention Code or the Uniform Statewide Building Code, The provisions*
74 *of § 63.1-198.2 regarding criminal record checks shall apply to child day centers exempt under this*
75 *subdivision.*

76 § 63.1-198.2. Records check by unlicensed center.

77 Any child day center which is exempt from licensure pursuant to § 63.1-196.3 or subsection E of
78 § 63.1-196.001 shall require a prospective employee or volunteer or any other person officially involved
79 in the operations of the facility in which the center is located to first obtain a criminal records check as
80 provided in subdivision A 11 of § 19.2-389 and shall refuse employment or work to any person who has
81 been convicted of any offense specified in § 63.1-198.1. Such facility shall also require a prospective
82 employee to provide a sworn statement or affirmation disclosing whether or not the applicant has ever
83 been convicted of or is the subject of pending charges for any offense specified in this section within
84 the Commonwealth or any equivalent offense outside the Commonwealth. Any person making a
85 materially false statement regarding any such offense shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. If an
86 applicant is denied employment because of convictions appearing on his criminal history record, the
87 facility shall provide a copy of the information obtained from the Central Criminal Records Exchange to
88 the applicant. Further dissemination of the information provided to the facility is prohibited.

89 The provisions of this section referring to volunteers shall apply only to volunteers who will be alone
90 with any child in the performance of their duties and shall not apply to a parent-volunteer of a child
91 attending the child day center whether or not such parent-volunteer will be alone with any child in the
92 performance of his duties. A parent-volunteer is someone supervising, without pay, a group of children
93 which includes the parent-volunteer's own child, in a program which operates no more than four hours
94 per day, where the parent-volunteer works under the direct supervision of a person who has received a
95 clearance pursuant to this section.