

SB 282
Senate Commerce
Proponent
March 8, 2023

Proponent Testimony

As a licensed Group Daycare provider with 2 workers, we are only allowed right now to care for 9 kids under the age of 5. This can be 3 infants and 6 toddlers. However, the infant age is under 18 months. This bill would lower that age rate to 12 months. It would also give us the ability to have more kids in our care. There is no reason in my opinion if you have 2 qualified providers why they can't care for more than 9 kids 12 max. If a teacher can have 30 kids in a classroom at the age of 5 by themselves what makes them more qualified to take them types of numbers on?

I currently have a waitlist of 15 kids but there is a shortage in the state for daycares. These parents need to get back to working but can't because there are no spots for their children to go to. I hold an associate's degree in Early Childhood Education and know I can care for more than the number of kids I am allowed to by regulations. But because of the way it is this limits us on what we can have and the ages.

I know some 5-year-olds that are more work than 12-month-olds. At the age of 12m months and up these littles are developing their walking and are treated like the rest of the toddlers in several aspects. On the food programs infant is 12 month and under. In Centers it is 12 months. So it is time to change that for in home daycares as well.

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