

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2447

BY DELEGATES KUMP, HOUSEHOLDER, MCGEEHAN,

COOPER AND PORTERFIELD

[Introduced January 16, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on Education then Finance.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §49-2-113 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
 2 to exempting kindergartens, preschools and school education programs that are operated
 3 by a private school whose accreditation includes its preschool classes and is recognized
 4 by the State Department of Education under Policy 2330 from state licensure
 5 requirements.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHILDREN.

PART 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY AND DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
 RESOURCES.

§49-2-113. Residential child-care centers; licensure, certification, approval and registration; requirements.

1 (a) Any person, corporation or child welfare agency, other than a state agency, which
 2 operates a residential child-care center shall obtain a license from the department.

3 (b) Any residential child-care facility, day-care center or any child-placing agency operated
 4 by the state shall obtain approval of its operations from the secretary.

5 (c) Any family day-care facility which operates in this state, including family day-care
 6 facilities approved by the department for receipt of funding, shall obtain a statement of certification
 7 from the department.

8 (d) Every family day-care home which operates in this state, including family day-care
 9 homes approved by the department for receipt of funding, shall obtain a certificate of registration
 10 from the department. The facilities and placing agencies shall maintain the same standards of
 11 care applicable to licensed facilities, centers or placing agencies of the same category.

12 (e) This section does not apply to:

13 (1) A kindergarten, preschool or school education program which is operated by a public
 14 school or which is accredited by the State Department of Education or any other kindergarten,

15 preschool or school programs which operate with sessions not exceeding four hours per day for
16 any child;

17 (2) An individual or facility which offers occasional care of children for brief periods while
18 parents are shopping, engaging in recreational activities, attending religious services or engaging
19 in other business or personal affairs;

20 (3) Summer recreation camps operated for children attending sessions for periods not
21 exceeding 30 days;

22 (4) Hospitals or other medical facilities which are primarily used for temporary residential
23 care of children for treatment, convalescence or testing;

24 (5) Persons providing family day care solely for children related to them;

25 (6) Any juvenile detention facility or juvenile correctional facility operated by or under
26 contract with the Division of Juvenile Services for the secure housing or holding of juveniles
27 committed to its custody;

28 (7) Any out-of-school time program that has been awarded a grant by the West Virginia
29 Department of Education to provide out-of-school time programs to kindergarten through twelfth
30 grade students when the program is monitored by the West Virginia Department of Education; ~~or~~

31 (8) Any out-of-school time program serving children six years of age or older and meets
32 all of the following requirements, or is an out-of-school time program that is affiliated and in good
33 standing with a national congressionally chartered organization or is operated by a county parks
34 and recreation commission, boards and municipalities and meets all of the following requirements:

35 (A) The program is located in a facility that meets all fire and health codes;

36 (B) The program performs state and federal background checks on all volunteers and staff;

37 (C) The programs' primary source of funding is not from fees for service except for
38 programs operated by county parks and recreation commissions, boards and municipalities;

39 (D) The program has a formalized monitoring system in place; or

40 (9) Any kindergarten, preschool or school education program which is operated by a

41 private school whose accreditation includes its preschool classes and is recognized by the State
42 Department of Education under Policy 2330.

43 (f) The secretary is authorized to issue an emergency rule relating to conducting a survey
44 of existing facilities in this state in which children reside on a temporary basis in order to ascertain
45 whether they should be subject to licensing under this article or applicable licensing provisions
46 relating to behavioral health treatment providers.

47 (g) Any informal family child-care home or relative family child-care home may voluntarily
48 register and obtain a certificate of registration from the department.

49 (h) All facilities or programs that provide out-of-school time care shall register with the
50 department upon commencement of operations and on an annual basis thereafter. The
51 department shall obtain information, such as the name of the facility or program, the description
52 of the services provided and any other information relevant to the determination by the department
53 as to whether the facility or program meets the criteria for exemption under this section.

54 (i) Any child-care service that is licensed or receives a certificate of registration shall have
55 a written plan for evacuation in the event of fire, natural disaster or other threatening situation that
56 may pose a health or safety hazard to the children in the child-care service.

57 (1) The plan shall include, but not be limited to:

58 (A) A designated relocation site and evacuation;

59 (B) Procedures for notifying parents of the relocation and ensuring family reunification;

60 (C) Procedures to address the needs of individual children including children with special
61 needs;

62 (D) Instructions relating to the training of staff or the reassignment of staff duties, as
63 appropriate;

64 (E) Coordination with local emergency management officials; and

65 (F) A program to ensure that appropriate staff are familiar with the components of the plan.

66 (2) A child-care service shall update the evacuation plan by December 31 of each year. If

67 a child-care service fails to update the plan, no action shall be taken against the child-care
68 services license or registration until notice is provided and the child-care service is given 30 days
69 after the receipt of notice to provide an updated plan.

70 (3) A child-care service shall retain an updated copy of the plan for evacuation and shall
71 provide notice of the plan and notification that a copy of the plan will be provided upon request to
72 any parent, custodian or guardian of each child at the time of the child's enrollment in the child-
73 care service and when the plan is updated.

74 (4) All child-care centers and family child-care facilities shall provide the plan and each
75 updated copy of the plan to the Director of the Office of Emergency Services in the county where
76 the center or facility is located.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to exempt kindergartens, preschools and school education programs that are operated by a private school whose accreditation includes its preschool classes and is recognized by the state Department of Education under Policy 2330 from state licensure requirements.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.