

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5049

AN ACT CONCERNING FAMILY CHILD CARE SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, ON FEDERAL PROPERTY OR FOR THE

Title: BENEFIT OF MILITARY FAMILIES.

Vote Date: 2/16/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/7/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Veterans' Affairs & Military Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would offer exemptions from certain state requirements to childcare services or a person(s) who are administered by the federal government or certified by the U.S. Coast Guard, or another military branch, as a family child-care provider. The exemption applies to services provided on a federal property. In addition to other things, it would exempt them from Office of Early Childhood (OEC) regulations and requirements with regards to licensing, inspections, background checks, penalties for operating without a license, inspection requirements, indoor usable space requirements, notifying parents of illness, immunization requirements and facility pesticide applications. The bill would also exempt them from reporting procedures that allow individuals to report concerns about the facility operations potentially posing any dangers to the safety, welfare or health of a child.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Beth Bye, Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood](#): Supports this bill.

Family childcare providers operating on federal property or for the benefit of military families already undergo a rigorous federal military certification process and ongoing monitoring. It would be duplicative and burdensome to require these specific family childcare providers to be licensed by the state as well. Affording the opportunity for more Child Development Homes in Connecticut would add capacity to the childcare infrastructure in the state.

Melissa Willette, New England Region Liaison, United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office: Supports this bill.

The proposed bill would assist with meeting the demands of military communities for family childcare services. Exempting family childcare providers from licensure and registration that is duplicative of the certification they receive from the military services will give Connecticut an opportunity to enhance the quality of life and economic security of both the providers and military families seeking qualified childcare options. The Family Child Care program is designed to ensure the highest standards of quality and safety are met in family childcare homes and the certification process is widely recognized as one of the most stringent in the country. The Department of Defense believes this bill will increase access to family childcare services, benefit personnel housed in southeastern Connecticut from the other military services who are housed at Naval Submarine Base New London, and further expand employment opportunities for military spouses. The Department supports policies like this that will ease the administrative burdens for military spouses who must go through the often challenging and frustrating process of relocating.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Representative Christine Conley, 40th District, Connecticut General Assembly:

Many of the Family Child Care Providers are military spouses who operate as independent business owners. This bill, if it were to become law, would allow these Family Child Care providers to bypass additional training or background checks from Connecticut when they arrive at their new military installation, unless their certification is due for a renewal. Our state's requirement for childcare workers is duplicative of the military service Family Child Care certification process. The additional certification could delay a provider from offering childcare and can create a financial hardship for many military spouses who need to certify in Connecticut before they reestablish their businesses after a military move. Additionally, when Connecticut recognizes the military certification process for Family Child Care providers, it will help meet the childcare needs of the military community, which nationally, was nearly at a 50% deficit in FY 2021. By exempting Family Child Care Providers already certified through the military process, we will enhance the quality of life and economic security of both the Family Child Care provider and the military families seeking qualified childcare.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted

Reported by: Robert Mayne

Date: March 3, 2023