

SS SB 1111 -- REGULATION OF CHILD CARE

SPONSOR: Black (Riley)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 15 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 1 and 1.

Beginning August 28, 2025, it will be unlawful for any person to establish, maintain, or operate a prescribed pediatric extended care facility without a license issued by the Department of Health and Senior Services. A "prescribed pediatric extended care facility" is defined as a facility providing medically necessary multidisciplinary services to children under six years of age with complex medical needs requiring continuous skilled nursing intervention of at least four hours a day under a physician's order.

Multidisciplinary services may include skilled nursing, personal care, nutritional assessment, developmental assessment, and speech, physical, and occupational therapy. Prescribed pediatric extended care facilities shall also be licensed child care providers under state law.

This bill sets forth the Department's authority to issue, suspend, or revoke the licenses, as well as conduct inspections and investigations and to promulgate rules to implement the provisions of the bill.

Prescribed pediatric extended care facilities with caregiver staffing ratios of one licensed nurse present for every child present; hospitals, sanitariums, or homes operated for medical treatment or nursing or convalescent care for children; and certain programs licensed by the Department of Mental Health shall not be required to be licensed under the bill.

Currently, any program licensed as a child care provider that provides child care to school-age children located and operated on elementary or secondary school property is deemed in compliance with child care licensure requirements relating to safety, health, and fire. The bill expands this provision to apply to all licensed programs providing child care to only school-age children, regardless of where such program is located and operated. "School-age children" is defined as any child five years of age or older who is in kindergarten or above. The bill further exempts any program serving only children enrolled in sixth grade or above from certain child-care facility licensing requirements.

This bill is the same as SCS SB 899 (2024).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that current restrictions on childcare facilities are too rigid. This legislation would increase the quality of and access to care facilities. Currently, care facilities are restricted to certain educational facilities. This legislation would allow for more buildings to have after school programs in them for special needs children in particular. Having care facilities in other buildings would be particularly valuable for parents that work if their places of employment can also house a care facility. Supporters further state that current legislation is outdated because children of different ages are treated the same way in care facilities. For example, a 6-month old is given the same care as a 6-year old. This legislation would allow age specific treatment rather than the current all encompassing care plan.

Testifying in person for the bill were Senator Black; Children's Mercy Hospital; Kids Win Missouri; Benjamin Terrell, Department of Health And Senior Services; Melanie Highland, Department of Health & Senior Services; Stephanie Johnson, Special Learning Center; Jennifer Wright, Special Learning Center; Missouri AfterSchool Network; Terri Foulkes, Missouri AfterSchool Network; Colleen Abbott; Ranken Jordan; Missouri Alliance Of YMCA; and BJC Healthcare; and Arnie Dienoff.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.