

SS SB 1111 -- REGULATION OF CHILD CARE

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 must also be licensed child care providers.

This bill specifies 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 are exempt from the provisions of the bill.

Nothing in these provisions permits the public disclosure by the Department of confidential medical, social, personal, or financial records of a child in the care of any prescribed pediatric extended care facility, except when disclosed in a manner which does not identify the child or when ordered by a court. The bill specifies who is entitled to access these records without a court order.

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 the program is located and operated. "School-age children" are 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.