

## CHAPTER 213

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**HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES**


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**HOUSE BILL 21-1222**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Valdez A. and Van Winkle, Bernett, Caraveo, Carver, Catlin, Cutter, Daugherty, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Jackson, Kipp, Lontine, Lynch, McCluskie, McCormick, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Ortiz, Pelton, Ransom, Ricks, Sandridge, Sirota, Tipper, Titone, Valdez D., Van Beber, Will, Williams, Woog, Young, Garnett, Amabile, Baisley, Bird, Boesenecker, Froelich, Geitner, McKean, Pico, Snyder, Sullivan, Woodrow;  
 also SENATOR(S) Smallwood and Winter, Bridges, Buckner, Cooke, Danielson, Fields, Ginal, Gonzales, Hisey, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lee, Liston, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Scott, Simpson, Sonnenberg, Story, Zenzinger, Garcia.

**AN ACT**
**CONCERNING ALIGNING LOCAL GOVERNING AUTHORITY REGULATIONS TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES TO ACCESS CHILD CARE IN FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES.**

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(a) Colorado has a shortage of licensed, safe, and affordable child care options, while at the same time there is a growing need for child care in order to bolster the economy and allow parents to work;

(b) Family child care homes provide an essential element of the child care network in both urban and rural parts of the state. In fact, in many counties, there are no licensed child care centers, making family child care homes the only option families have for licensed child care.

(c) Many parents prefer child care that is located in family homes within their neighborhood so their children can experience a home-like environment that is conducive to healthy and safe development.

(2) The general assembly further finds that:

(a) Zoning, land use development, building, and fire standards that vary across the state and that treat family child care homes differently from family residences are difficult for providers to meet, create undue hardship and barriers to entry, and

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*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

negatively impact the number of providers willing and able to offer licensed child care; and

(b) The child care licensure rules promulgated by the Colorado department of human services provide rigorous protections for children's health and safety, including protective standards relating to fire and life safety, sanitation, and physical environment in family child care homes.

(3) Therefore, the general assembly declares that the regulation of family child care homes throughout the state is a matter of statewide concern and the inconsistent regulation by local governments relating to zoning, land use development, building codes, and fire and life safety hinders the ability of the state department of human services to license and inspect family child care homes and to provide accessible, safe, and affordable licensed child care options for all Colorado parents.

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6-104.5, **amend** (1) as follows:

**26-6-104.5. Compliance with local government zoning regulations - notice to local governments - provisional licensure.** (1) (a) The department shall require any child care facility seeking licensure pursuant to section 26-6-104 to comply with any applicable zoning AND LAND USE DEVELOPMENT regulations of the municipality, city and county, or county where the facility is situated. Failure to comply with applicable zoning AND LAND USE regulations ~~shall constitute~~ CONSTITUTES grounds for the denial of a license to a facility.

(b) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION TO THE CONTRARY, THE AVAILABILITY OF SAFE, AFFORDABLE, AND LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES IS A MATTER OF STATEWIDE CONCERN. THEREFORE, PERMITTING FRAGMENTED REGULATION AMONG JURISDICTIONS IMPEDES AND INFRINGES UPON THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROPRIATE AND CONSISTENT LICENSING AND REGULATION OF FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES THROUGHOUT THE STATE. ACCORDINGLY, LOCAL GOVERNING AUTHORITIES SHALL TREAT FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES AS RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY USE IN THE APPLICATION OF LOCAL REGULATIONS, INCLUDING ZONING, LAND USE DEVELOPMENT, FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY, SANITATION, AND BUILDING CODES. LOCAL GOVERNING AUTHORITIES SHALL NOT IMPOSE ANY ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES THAT DO NOT ALSO APPLY TO OTHER RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES, PROVIDED THAT THE FOREGOING DOES NOT RESTRICT AN AUTHORITY'S ABILITY TO PROHIBIT, ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, THE OPERATION IN IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT RESIDENCES OF TWO OR MORE LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES, AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED BY RULES BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT GOVERNS THE OPERATION OF FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES, OR TO MANAGE THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC AND PARKING RELATED TO ADJACENT LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES. RESIDENTIAL USE OF PROPERTY FOR ZONING PURPOSES INCLUDES ALL FORMS OF RESIDENTIAL ZONING AND, SPECIFICALLY, ALTHOUGH NOT EXCLUSIVELY, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONING.

**SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6-106, **amend** (1)(a) as follows:

**26-6-106. Standards for facilities and agencies - rules.** (1) (a) The department shall prescribe and publish standards for licensing. ~~Such~~ THE standards ~~shall~~ MUST be applicable to the various types of facilities and agencies for child care regulated

and licensed by this part 1; except that the department shall prescribe and publish separate standards for the licensing of child placement agencies operating for the purpose of adoptive placement and adoption-related services. The department shall seek the advice and assistance of persons representative of the various types of child care facilities and agencies in establishing such standards. ~~Such standards shall~~ THE STANDARDS, INCLUDING THE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND COUNCILS AND ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING FIRE MARSHALS AND BUILDING CODE OFFICIALS IN THE PROMULGATION OF ANY RULES RELATED TO ADEQUATE FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION, AS ALLOWED IN SUBSECTION (2)(e) OF THIS SECTION, IN A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME. THE STANDARDS MUST be established by rules promulgated by the state board of human services and ~~shall~~ be issued, ~~and~~ published, AND BECOME EFFECTIVE only in conformity with ~~the provisions and procedures specified in article 4 of title 24. C.R.S., and shall become effective only as provided in said article.~~

**SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: June 7, 2021