

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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SENATE BILL 722  
Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 4/19/23

Short Title: Child Care Flexibilities.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 10, 2023

- 1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITIES IN CHILD CARE TO ADDRESS THE  
3 WORKFORCE SHORTAGE BY RECOGNIZING THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
4 ASSOCIATE (CDA) CREDENTIAL IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.  
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:  
6 **SECTION 1.** No later than March 31, 2024, the Department of Health and Human  
7 Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division), shall develop and  
8 implement criteria that incorporates the child development associate (CDA) credential for birth  
9 through 3 years of age and the CDA credential for 3 to 5 years of age to count toward satisfying  
10 the requirements for the star rating system for child care. An individual seeking recognition for  
11 the CDA credential for birth through 3 years of age or 3 to 5 years of age shall meet the following  
12 requirements:  
13 (1) Education. – The individual must satisfy education criteria as follows:  
14 a. Earn a high school diploma, a general education development (GED)  
15 credential, or be enrolled as a junior or senior in a high school career  
16 and technical program in early childhood education.  
17 b. Complete 120 hours of formal early childhood education training,  
18 covering the growth and development of children either birth through  
19 3 years of age or 3 to 5 years of age, with no fewer than 10 training  
20 hours in each of the following eight subject areas:  
21 1. Planning a safe and healthy learning environment.  
22 2. Advancing children's physical and intellectual development.  
23 3. Supporting children's social and emotional development.  
24 4. Building productive relationships with families.  
25 5. Managing an effective program operation.  
26 6. Maintaining a commitment to professionalism.  
27 7. Observing and recording children's behavior.  
28 8. Understanding the principles of child development and  
29 learning.  
30 (2) Training. – An individual shall complete training, whether through a single  
31 agency or multiple organizations. The organization providing the training  
32 must (i) have expertise in early childhood education and teacher preparation  
33 and (ii) provide official documentation when the individual's training is  
34 completed.  
35 (3) Documentation. – Within six months of submitting the application for the  
36 CDA credential for birth through 3 years of age or 3 to 5 years of age, the



1 individual shall (i) prepare the individual's CDA portfolio, which shall consist  
2 of a collection of reference materials related to the individual's work with  
3 children and families, and (ii) select a CDA professional development  
4 specialist to conduct the individual's CDA verification visit to review the  
5 individual's professional portfolio, observe the individual working with  
6 children, complete dialogue with the individual, and submit score  
7 recommendations.

- 8 (4) Experience. – Within three years of submitting the application for the CDA  
9 credential for birth through 3 years of age or 3 to 5 years of age, the individual  
10 must obtain 480 hours of professional work experience in a center-based  
11 setting with children either birth through 3 years of age or 3 to 5 years of age.

12 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2023.