

Family Child Care in Louisiana Needs to Prioritize Safety and Quality

The Louisiana Policy Institute for Children opposes House Bill 823 and Senate Bill 465 in their current form, which would create an “early learning home” license for family child care providers.

Concerns with Proposed Legislation:

- 1 The bills jeopardize health and safety of children.** One adult with 12+ children (potentially including infants and toddlers) cannot ensure their safety, especially during an emergency.
- 2 The bills jeopardize quality of care.** Children develop cognitively and socially when they have meaningful interactions with adults. The larger the group of children per adult, the fewer meaningful interactions there will be. High quality care helps children succeed—low quality care actually damages their development.
- 3 A 2018 Legislative Audit found that “Louisiana child care licensing standards do not meet all national best practices** related to child-to-staff ratios, group sizes, and oversight of family child care and in-home providers.” These bills do not take into account the auditor’s recommendations—in fact, they make problems identified by the auditors worse.

Current Teacher to Child Ratios & Group Sizes: National vs. Louisiana

If these bills were to pass, Louisiana's ratios and group sizes would be even worse.

Age	Maximum Teacher to Child Ratio		Maximum Group Size	
	National	Louisiana	National	Louisiana
Infant	1:2	1:5	6	15
1 year	1:2	1:7	8	21
2 years	1:3	1:11	12	22
3 years	1:7	1:13	12	26
4 years	1:8	1:15	12	30
5 years	1:8	1:19	12	38

Number of Children Under 2 years of Age in a Family Care Setting	Maximum Number of Children Over 2 Year of Age Allowed in Care	
	National	Louisiana
0	1-6	6
1	1-3	6
2	0	6

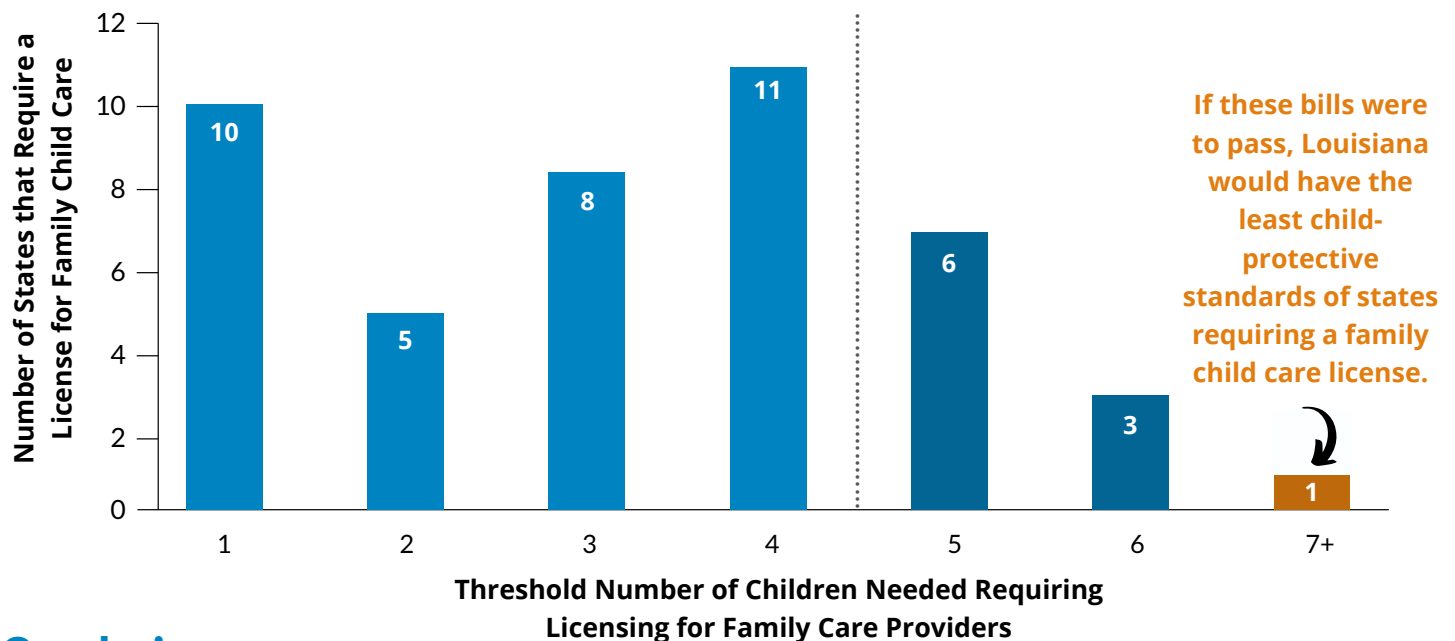
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Concerns with Proposed Legislation (continued):

- 4 The bills **do not reflect best practices** in terms of **teacher-child ratios** or **group sizes**—especially in regard to **excluding related children from the total count**.
- 5 Currently, **Louisiana is one of a few states** that does **not require family child care providers to have a license**.
- 6 **43 states require a family care provider to include related children in the total count**—including states with larger average family sizes than Louisiana.
- 7 Most states already require family child care providers to be licensed if the provider watches 4 or fewer children. **If these bills were to pass, Louisiana would be an outlier with a license for family child care providers with 7-12+ children.**

Licensing Thresholds for Family Child Care as of 2017



Conclusion

The Louisiana Policy Institute for Children is not opposed to family child care, just these two bills. There are too many concerns with this legislation to proceed during the shortened 2020 legislative session. We would welcome the opportunity to work with sponsors and other stakeholders on a new version of these bills for next session. **We believe data should drive policy, and the available data does not support these bills.**