

Proposed 2008 Child Care Licensure Legislation
Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
<p><i>Why is the legislation being introduced?</i></p>	<p>The needs of Idaho’s working families have increased. The number of families using child care for work or school has dramatically increased in the past 15 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is estimated that 70% of child care providers are not required to pass a criminal history check. • Over half of the child care settings statewide are not currently required to maintain minimal health and fire safety guidelines. • 3 out of 5 children under the age of 5 are now in child care settings. That equates to 70,165 children statewide.(Census, 2000 data) <p>The current lack of adequate standards for child care puts children at risk and denies parents access to safe and health child care settings for their children.</p>
<p><i>What are the current child care regulations</i></p>	<p>This varies based on type and number of children served:</p> <p><i>Family child care</i> – 6 or fewer children – No criminal history check, nor safety or health requirements.</p> <p><i>Group day care</i> – 7 to 12 children – Must pass criminal history check and fire safety inspection, no health requirements</p> <p><i>Center based care</i> – 13 or more children – Licensee, employees and unsupervised volunteers must pass criminal history check, licensee must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Air/CPR • pass fire and health inspections • follow fire safety child/staff ratios • copy of immunization records of children in attendance • have 4 hours of training a year.

<p><i>How will this bill change the current licensing guidelines?</i></p>	<p>Requires providers caring for 4 or more children to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass a criminal history check • Provide a clean water source • Prepare and store food safely • Perform sanitary toileting/diapering practices • Practice proper hand washing • Have a working telephone • Have an exit in case of fire • Have a fire extinguisher and smoke detector • Have current 1st Aid/CPR certification • Not smoke or consume alcohol on the premises when children are in attendance • Not consume illegal drugs • Store weapons in secure storage out of the reach of children • Attend 8 hours of continuing early childhood education a year. • Provide increased fire safety ratio guidelines based on type of provider and age of children in attendance.
<p><i>How much will licensure cost providers annually?</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Initial licensure</i></p> <p>2 year license fee \$150.00 (includes background check fees for licensee and health and fire inspection fees) Additional background checks cost \$45.00 per person.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Renewal licensure</i></p> <p>2 year renewal fee \$ 90.00 (includes health and fire inspection fees) An updated background check is not required.</p>
<p><i>How does this bill benefit parents?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents have the assurance that the licensed child care provider they have chosen has passed a criminal history check and the child care setting meets minimum health and fire safety guidelines. • Children will be in child care settings that do not compromise their safety. •

<p><i>How does this bill benefit child care providers?</i></p>	<p>Through licensure this bill will allow providers to actually increase their program capacity to serve more children. The amount of that increase will vary due to local planning and zoning ordinances.</p> <p>Licensure will also enable family child care providers who are currently unlicensed to participate in the USDA Food Program.</p>
<p><i>What about supply and demand in rural areas?</i></p>	<p>Capacity will increase as currently unlicensed providers can only care for up to 6 children. This bill will allow these providers to double their current capacity to 12 children without adding additional staff.</p> <p>Rural areas will reap the benefit of a child care system that allows their residents access to safe and healthy child care choices regardless of their residence or income.</p> <p>This increases child care options for families and more than doubles community capacity for child care.</p>
<p><i>What about local option for child care licensure?</i></p>	<p>Currently there are only 9 cities statewide that have the infrastructure and fiscal ability to establish and maintain local child care ordinances. Most municipalities struggle with maintaining adequate funding for emergency services and depend on the state to license child care providers.</p>
<p><i>What can I do to help?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to your legislators, neighbors, co-workers and family members and encourage them to talk to everyone they know and their legislators. • Contact your organizations leadership and express your support for this issue. • Contact Cathy Kowalski, Idaho AEYC Public Policy, at idahochildcare@aol.com if you want to help, full text of the proposed legislation or want to be included on the list serve for updates.