

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 759

Representatives Lawson-Rowe, Lett

**Cosponsors: Representatives Brennan, Brownlee, Glassburn, McNally, Miller, J.,
Piccolantonio, Rogers, Russo, Sweeney, White, E.**

To amend section 5104.03 and to enact sections 1
5104.55 and 5104.56 of the Revised Code 2
regarding child care services for the children 3
of veterans and active duty military members, to 4
name this act the Ohio Vets-Military Families 5
Childcare Act, and to make an appropriation. 6

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 5104.03 be amended and sections 7
5104.55 and 5104.56 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 8
follows: 9

Sec. 5104.03. (A) As used in this section, "owner" has the 10
same meaning as in section 5104.01 of the Revised Code, except 11
that "owner" also includes a firm, organization, institution, or 12
agency, as well as any individual governing board members, 13
partners, or authorized representatives of the owner. 14

(B) Any person, firm, organization, institution, or agency 15
seeking to establish a child care center, type A family child 16
care home, or licensed type B family child care home shall apply 17
for a license to the director of children and youth on such form 18
as the director prescribes. The director shall provide at no 19

charge to each applicant for licensure a copy of the child care 20
license requirements in this chapter and a copy of the rules 21
adopted pursuant to this chapter. The copies may be provided in 22
paper or electronic form. 23

Fees shall be set by the director pursuant to sections 24
5104.015, 5104.017, and 5104.018 of the Revised Code and shall 25
be paid at the time of application for a license to operate a 26
center, type A home, or type B home. Fees collected under this 27
section shall be paid into the state treasury to the credit of 28
the general revenue fund. 29

(C) (1) Upon filing of the application for a license, the 30
director shall investigate and inspect the center, type A home, 31
or type B home to determine the license capacity for each age 32
category of children of the center, type A home, or type B home 33
and to determine whether the center, type A home, or type B home 34
complies with this chapter and rules adopted pursuant to this 35
chapter. When, after investigation and inspection, the director 36
is satisfied that this chapter and rules adopted pursuant to it 37
are complied with, subject to division (G) of this section, a 38
license shall be issued as soon as practicable in such form and 39
manner as prescribed by the director. The license shall be 40
designated as provisional and shall be valid for at least twelve 41
months from the date of issuance and until the continuous 42
license is issued or until the provisional license is revoked or 43
suspended pursuant to section 5104.042 of the Revised Code. 44

(2) The director may contract with a government entity or 45
a private nonprofit entity for the entity to inspect type A or 46
type B family child care homes pursuant to this section. If the 47
director contracts with a government entity or private nonprofit 48
entity for that purpose, the entity may contract with another 49

government entity or private nonprofit entity for the other 50
entity to inspect type A or type B homes pursuant to this 51
section. The director, government entity, or private nonprofit 52
entity shall conduct an inspection prior to the issuance of a 53
license for a type A or type B home and, as part of that 54
inspection, ensure that the home is safe and sanitary. 55

(3) The director shall issue licenses in accordance with 56
section 4743.041 of the Revised Code, but only if the director 57
determines that the standards under which the other state or 58
jurisdiction issued the license or certificate to practice a 59
child care trade or profession are substantially similar to or 60
more stringent than the standards under which the department 61
issues licenses under this section. 62

(D) The director shall investigate and inspect the center, 63
type A home, or type B home at least once during operation under 64
a license designated as provisional. If after the investigation 65
and inspection the director determines that the requirements of 66
this chapter and rules adopted pursuant to this chapter are met, 67
subject to division (G) of this section, the director shall 68
issue a continuous license to the center or home. 69

(E) Each license shall state the name of the licensee, the 70
name of the administrator, the address of the center, type A 71
home, or licensed type B home, and the license capacity for each 72
age category of children. The license shall include thereon, in 73
accordance with sections 5104.015, 5104.017, and 5104.018 of the 74
Revised Code, the toll-free telephone number to be used by 75
persons suspecting that the center, type A home, or licensed 76
type B home has violated a provision of this chapter or rules 77
adopted pursuant to this chapter. A license is valid only for 78
the licensee, administrator, address, and license capacity for 79

each age category of children designated on the license. The 80
license capacity specified on the license is the maximum number 81
of children in each age category that may be cared for in the 82
center, type A home, or licensed type B home at one time. 83

A center or home licensee shall notify the director in 84
writing when the administrator, address, or license capacity of 85
the center or home changes. The director shall amend the current 86
license to reflect a change in any of the following: 87

(1) An administrator, if the administrator meets the 88
requirements of this chapter and rules adopted pursuant to this 89
chapter; 90

(2) Address, if the new address meets the requirements of 91
this chapter and rules adopted pursuant to this chapter; 92

(3) License capacity for any age category of children as 93
determined by the director of children and youth. 94

(F) If the director revokes the license of a center, a 95
type A home, or a type B home, the director shall not issue 96
another license to the owner of the center, type A home, or type 97
B home until five years have elapsed from the date the license 98
is revoked. 99

If the director denies an application for a license, the 100
director shall not consider another application from the 101
applicant until five years have elapsed from the date the 102
application is denied. 103

(G) (1) Except as provided in division (G) (2) of this 104
section, all actions of the director with respect to licensing 105
centers, type A homes, or type B homes, refusal to license, and 106
revocation of a license shall be in accordance with Chapter 119. 107
of the Revised Code. Except as provided in division (G) (2) of 108

this section, any applicant who is denied a license or any owner 109
whose license is revoked may appeal in accordance with section 110
119.12 of the Revised Code. 111

(2) The following actions by the director are not subject 112
to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code: 113

(a) The director ceases its review of an application 114
because the owner of a center, type A home, or type B home 115
sought a license before five years had elapsed from the date the 116
previous license was revoked and the director does not issue the 117
license. 118

(b) The director ceases its review of an application 119
because the applicant applied for licensure before five years 120
had elapsed from the date the previous application was denied 121
and the director does not issue the license. 122

(c) The director closes a license because the director has 123
determined that the center, type A home, or type B home is no 124
longer operating at the address stated on the license and did 125
not notify the director of the address change as described in 126
division (E) of this section. 127

(H) In no case shall the director issue a license under 128
this section for a center, type A home, or type B home if the 129
director, based on documentation provided by the appropriate 130
county department of job and family services, determines that 131
the applicant had been certified as an in-home aide, that the 132
county department revoked that certification within the 133
immediately preceding five years, that the revocation was based 134
on the applicant's refusal or inability to comply with the 135
criteria for certification, and that the refusal or inability 136
resulted in a risk to the health or safety of children. 137

(I) An owner of a type B family child care home that 138
receives a license pursuant to this section is an independent 139
contractor and is not an employee of the department of children 140
and youth. 141

Sec. 5104.55. (A) The department of children and youth, in 142
coordination with the department of veterans services, shall 143
establish and administer the veterans and military families 144
child care program. Subject to available funds, the program 145
shall provide support, in the form of child care vouchers, to 146
veterans and military families to assist them with child care 147
costs. To be eligible to participate in the program, a family 148
must meet all of the following conditions: 149

(1) The family contains a member who is a veteran or 150
active duty military member, and the caretaker parent is 151
employed or participating in a program of education or training 152
for an amount of time reasonably related to the time that the 153
parent's children are receiving care. 154

(2) The family does not meet the income conditions for 155
initial eligibility under the publicly funded child care program 156
administered by the department as described in section 5104.30 157
of the Revised code, but the maximum amount of the family's 158
income does not exceed four hundred fifty per cent of the 159
federal poverty line. 160

(3) The family meets any other conditions established by 161
the department. 162

(B) In providing vouchers under this section, the program 163
shall utilize the publicly funded child care payment rates 164
established in section 5104.30 of the Revised Code, except that 165
such payment rates shall not be enhanced payment rates as 166

described in division (E) (2) (c) of that section. 167

Sec. 5104.56. The department of children and youth shall 168
take all actions necessary to expand participation in the 169
military child care in your neighborhood plus program in this 170
state and other federal child care programs administered 171
specifically for veterans and military families. 172

Section 2. That existing section 5104.03 of the Revised 173
Code is hereby repealed. 174

Section 3. On the effective date of this section, or as 175
soon as possible thereafter, the Director of Children and Youth 176
shall certify to the Director of Budget and Management the 177
amount necessary to fund the Veterans and Military Families 178
Child Care Program established in section 5104.55 of the Revised 179
Code during fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027. The certified 180
amount is hereby appropriated. 181

Within the limits set forth in this act, the Director of 182
Budget and Management shall establish accounts indicating the 183
source and amount of funds for each appropriation made in this 184
act, and shall determine the manner in which appropriation 185
accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from operating 186
appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for as 187
though made in, and are subject to all applicable provisions of, 188
H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly. 189

Section 4. This act shall be known as the Ohio Vets- 190
Military Families Childcare Act. 191