#### As Introduced

## 135th General Assembly

## Regular Session

H. B. No. 602

2023-2024

### Representatives Fowler Arthur, McClain

Cosponsors: Representatives Barhorst, Claggett, Click, Dean, Ferguson, Gross, Holmes, John, Johnson, Kick, King, Klopfenstein, Lear, Stein, Stoltzfus, Swearingen, Wiggam, Williams, Willis

## A BILL

Го	amend sections 5104.01, 5104.02, and 5104.38 and	1
	to enact sections 303.215 and 519.215 of the	2
	Revised Code to exempt home education groups	3
	from child care regulations, county and township	4
	zoning regulations, and to amend the versions of	5
	sections 5104.01, 5104.02, and 5104.38 of the	6
	Revised Code that are scheduled to take effect	7
	on January 1, 2025, to continue the change on	8
	and after that date.	9

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

Section 1. That sections 5104.01, 5104.02, and 5104.38 be	10
amended and sections 303.215 and 519.215 of the Revised Code be	11
enacted to read as follows:	12
Sec. 303.215. (A) Except as provided in division (B) of	13
this section, sections 303.01 to 303.25 of the Revised Code do	14
not confer on any county rural zoning commission, board of	15
county commissioners, or board of zoning appeals the authority	16
to prohibit or restrict the location of a home education	17

<u>learning pod</u> , as defined in section 5104.01 of the Revised Code,	18
in any district or zone in the county.	19
(B) Division (A) of this section does not limit the	20
authority of a county rural zoning commission, board of county	21
commissioners, or board of zoning appeals to require that a	22
building or residence used by a home education learning pod	23
comply with zoning requirements that would otherwise apply to	24
the building or residence if it was not associated with or used	25
by a home education learning pod.	26
Sec. 519.215. (A) Except as provided in division (B) of	27
this section, sections 519.01 to 519.25 of the Revised Code do	28
not confer on any township zoning commission, board of township	29
trustees, or board of zoning appeals the authority to prohibit	30
or restrict the location of a home education learning pod, as	31
defined in section 5104.01 of the Revised Code, in any district	32
or zone in the township.	33
(B) Division (A) of this section does not limit the	34
authority of a township zoning commission, board of township	35
trustees, or board of zoning appeals to require that a building	36
or residence used by a home education learning pod comply with	37
zoning requirements that would otherwise apply to the building	38
or residence if it was not associated with or used by a home	39
education learning pod.	40
Sec. 5104.01. As used in this chapter:	41
(A) "Administrator" means the person responsible for the	42
daily operation of a center, type A home, or approved child day	43
camp. The administrator and the owner may be the same person.	44
(B) "Approved child day camp" means a child day camp	45
approved pursuant to section 5104.22 of the Revised Code.	46

(C) "Authorized representative" means an individual	47
employed by a center, type A home, or approved child day camp	48
that is owned by a person other than an individual and who is	49
authorized by the owner to do all of the following:	50
(1) Communicate on the owner's behalf;	51
(2) Submit on the owner's behalf applications for	52
licensure or approval;	53
(3) Enter into on the owner's behalf provider agreements	54
for publicly funded child care.	55
(D) "Border state child care provider" means a child care	56
provider that is located in a state bordering Ohio and that is	57
licensed, certified, or otherwise approved by that state to	58
provide child care funded by the child care block grant act.	59
(E) "Career pathways model" means an alternative pathway	60
to meeting the requirements to be a child care staff member or	61
administrator that does both of the following:	62
(1) Uses a framework approved by the director of job and	63
family services to document formal education, training,	64
experience, and specialized credentials and certifications;	65
(2) Allows the child care staff member or administrator to	66
achieve a designation as an early childhood professional level	67
one, two, three, four, five, or six.	68
(F) "Caretaker parent" means the father or mother of a	69
child whose presence in the home is needed as the caretaker of	70
the child, a person who has legal custody of a child and whose	71
presence in the home is needed as the caretaker of the child, a	72
guardian of a child whose presence in the home is needed as the	73
caretaker of the child, and any other person who stands in loco	74

parentis with respect to the child and whose presence in the	75
home is needed as the caretaker of the child.	76
(G) "Chartered nonpublic school" means a school that meets	77
standards for nonpublic schools prescribed by the director of	78
education and workforce for nonpublic schools pursuant to	79
section 3301.07 of the Revised Code.	80
(H) "Child" includes an infant, toddler, preschool-age	81
child, or school-age child.	82
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(I) "Child care block grant act" means the "Child Care and	83
Development Block Grant Act of 2014," 128 Stat. 1971 (2014), 42	84
U.S.C. 9858, as amended.	85
(J) "Child day camp" means a program in which only school-	86
age children attend or participate, that operates for no more	87
than twelve hours per day and no more than fifteen weeks during	88
the summer. For purposes of this division, the maximum twelve	89
hours of operation time does not include transportation time	90
from a child's home to a child day camp and from a child day	91
camp to a child's home.	92
(K) "Child care" means all of the following:	93
(1) Administering to the needs of infants, toddlers,	94
preschool-age children, and school-age children outside of	95
school hours;	96
(2) By persons other than their parents, guardians, or	97
custodians;	98
(3) For part of the twenty-four-hour day;	99
(4) In a place other than a child's own home, except that	100
an in-home aide provides child care in the child's own home;	101

(5) By a provider required by this chapter to be licensed	102
or approved by the department of job and family services,	103
certified by a county department of job and family services, or	104
under contract with the department to provide publicly funded	105
child care as described in section 5104.32 of the Revised Code.	106
(L) "Child care center" and "center" mean any place that	107
is not the permanent residence of the licensee or administrator	108
in which child care or publicly funded child care is provided	109
for seven or more children at one time. "Child care center" and	110
"center" do not include any of the following:	111
(1) A place located in and operated by a hospital, as	112
defined in section 3727.01 of the Revised Code, in which the	113
needs of children are administered to, if all the children whose	114
needs are being administered to are monitored under the on-site	115
supervision of a physician licensed under Chapter 4731. of the	116
Revised Code or a registered nurse licensed under Chapter 4723.	117
of the Revised Code, and the services are provided only for	118
children who, in the opinion of the child's parent, guardian, or	119
custodian, are exhibiting symptoms of a communicable disease or	120
other illness or are injured;	121
(2) A child day camp;	122
(3) A place that provides care, if all of the following	123
apply:	124
(a) An organized religious body provides the care;	125
(b) A parent, custodian, or guardian of at least one child	126
receiving care is on the premises and readily accessible at all	127
times;	128
(c) The care is not provided for more than thirty days a	129
year;	130

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(d) The care is provided only for preschool-age and	131
school-age children.	132
(M) "Child care resource and referral service	133
organization" means a community-based nonprofit organization	134
that provides child care resource and referral services but not	135
child care.	136
(N) "Child care resource and referral services" means all	137
of the following services:	138
(1) Maintenance of a uniform data base of all child care	139
providers in the community that are in compliance with this	140
chapter, including current occupancy and vacancy data;	141
(2) Provision of individualized consumer education to	142
families seeking child care;	143
(3) Provision of timely referrals of available child care	144
providers to families seeking child care;	145
(4) Recruitment of child care providers;	146
(5) Assistance in developing, conducting, and	147
disseminating training for child care professionals and	148
provision of technical assistance to current and potential child	149
care providers, employers, and the community;	150
(6) Collection and analysis of data on the supply of and	151
demand for child care in the community;	152
(7) Technical assistance concerning locally, state, and	153
federally funded child care and early childhood education	154
programs;	155
(8) Stimulation of employer involvement in making child	156
care more affordable, more available, safer, and of higher	157

quality for their employees and for the community;	158
(9) Provision of written educational materials to	159
caretaker parents and informational resources to child care	160
providers;	161
(10) Coordination of services among child care resource	162
and referral service organizations to assist in developing and	163
maintaining a statewide system of child care resource and	164
referral services if required by the department of job and	165
family services;	166
(11) Cooperation with the county department of job and	167
family services in encouraging the establishment of parent	168
cooperative child care centers and parent cooperative type A	169
family child care homes.	170
(O) "Child care staff member" means an employee of a child	171
care center, type A family child care home, licensed type B	172
family child care home, or approved child day camp who is	173
primarily responsible for the care and supervision of children.	174
The administrator, authorized representative, or owner may be a	175
child care staff member when not involved in other duties.	176
(P) "Drop-in child care center," "drop-in center," "drop-	177
in type A family child care home," and "drop-in type A home"	178
mean a center or type A home that provides child care or	179
publicly funded child care for children on a temporary,	180
irregular basis.	181
(Q) "Employee" means a person who either:	182
(1) Receives compensation for duties performed in a child	183
care center, type A family child care home, licensed type B	184
family child care home, or approved child day camp;	185

(2) Is assigned specific working hours or duties in a	186
child care center, type A family child care home, licensed type	187
B family child care home, or approved child day camp.	188
(R) "Employer" means a person, firm, institution,	189
organization, or agency that operates a child care center, type	190
A family child care home, licensed type B family child care	191
home, or approved child day camp subject to licensure or	192
approval under this chapter.	193
(S) "Federal poverty line" means the official poverty	194
guideline as revised annually in accordance with section 673(2)	195
of the "Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981," 95 Stat.	196
511, 42 U.S.C. 9902, as amended, for a family size equal to the	197
size of the family of the person whose income is being	198
determined.	199
(T) "Head start program" means a school-readiness program	200
that satisfies all of the following:	201
(1) Is for children from birth to age five who are from	202
<pre>low-income families;</pre>	203
(2) Receives funds distributed under the "Improving Head	204
Start for School-Readiness Act of 2007," 42 U.S.C. 9831, as	205
amended;	206
(3) Is licensed as a child care program.	207
(U) "Home education" has the same meaning as in section	208
3321.042 of the Revised Code.	209
(V) "Home education learning pod" means a voluntary	210
association of parents who direct their children's education	211
through home education and includes the following	212
<pre>characteristics:</pre>	213

(1) The parents choose to group their children together in	214
a home or other location at various times, which may include	215
hours when home education is not provided.	216
(2) The pod includes only the parents' children who are	217
receiving home education, except that it also may include	218
siblings of those children, or other children who are under the	219
care of the parents, regardless of age.	220
(3) At least one parent of any of the children	221
participating in the pod must be on the premises while the pod	222
is meeting.	223
(W) "Homeless child care" means child care provided to a	224
child who satisfies any of the following:	225
(1) Is homeless as defined in 42 U.S.C. 11302;	226
(2) Is a homeless child or youth as defined in 42 U.S.C.	227
11434a;	228
(3) Resides temporarily with a caretaker in a facility	229
providing emergency shelter for homeless families or is	230
determined by a county department of job and family services to	231
be homeless.	232
$\frac{(V)-(X)}{(X)}$ "Income" means gross income, as defined in section	233
5107.10 of the Revised Code, less any amounts required by	234
federal statutes or regulations to be disregarded.	235
$\frac{W}{W}$ Indicator checklist" means an inspection tool,	236
used in conjunction with an instrument-based program monitoring	237
information system, that contains selected licensing	238
requirements that are statistically reliable indicators or	239
predictors of a child care center's, type A family child care	240
home's, or licensed type B family child care home's compliance	241

with licensing requirements.	242
$\frac{(X)-(Z)}{(Z)}$ "Infant" means a child who is less than eighteen	243
months of age.	244
(Y)—(AA) "In-home aide" means a person who does not reside	245
with the child but provides care in the child's home and is	246
certified by a county director of job and family services	247
pursuant to section 5104.12 of the Revised Code to provide	248
publicly funded child care to a child in a child's own home	249
pursuant to this chapter and any rules adopted under it.	250
(Z)—(BB) "Instrument-based program monitoring information	251
system" means a method to assess compliance with licensing	252
requirements for child care centers, type A family child care	253
homes, and licensed type B family child care homes in which each	254
licensing requirement is assigned a weight indicative of the	255
relative importance of the requirement to the health, growth,	256
and safety of the children that is used to develop an indicator	257
checklist.	258
(AA) (CC) "License capacity" means the maximum number in	259
each age category of children who may be cared for in a child	260
care center, type A family child care home, or licensed type B	261
family child care home at one time as determined by the director	262
of job and family services considering building occupancy limits	263
established by the department of commerce, amount of available	264
indoor floor space and outdoor play space, and amount of	265
available play equipment, materials, and supplies.	266
(BB) (DD) "Licensed child care program" means any of the	267
following:	268
(1) A child care center licensed by the department of job	269
and family services pursuant to this chapter:	270

(2) A type A family child care home or type B family child	271
care home licensed by the department of job and family services	272
pursuant to this chapter;	273
(3) A licensed preschool program or licensed school child	274
program.	275
(CC) (EE) "Licensed preschool program" or "licensed school	276
child program" means a preschool program or school child	277
program, as defined in section 3301.52 of the Revised Code, that	278
is licensed by the department of education and workforce	279
pursuant to sections 3301.52 to 3301.59 of the Revised Code.	280
(DD) (FF) "Licensed type B family child care home" and	281
"licensed type B home" mean a type B family child care home for	282
which there is a valid license issued by the director of job and	283
family services pursuant to section 5104.03 of the Revised Code.	284
(EE) (GG) "Licensee" means the owner of a child care	285
center, type A family child care home, or type B family child	286
care home that is licensed pursuant to this chapter and who is	287
responsible for ensuring compliance with this chapter and rules	288
adopted pursuant to this chapter.	289
(FF) (HH) "Operate a child day camp" means to operate,	290
establish, manage, conduct, or maintain a child day camp.	291
(GG) (II) "Owner" includes a person, as defined in section	292
1.59 of the Revised Code, or government entity.	293
(HH) (JJ) "Parent cooperative child care center," "parent	294
cooperative center," "parent cooperative type A family child	295
care home," and "parent cooperative type A home" mean a	296
corporation or association organized for providing educational	297
services to the children of members of the corporation or	298
association, without gain to the corporation or association as	299

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an entity, in which the services of the corporation or	300
association are provided only to children of the members of the	301
corporation or association, ownership and control of the	302
corporation or association rests solely with the members of the	303
corporation or association, and at least one parent-member of	304
the corporation or association is on the premises of the center	305
or type A home during its hours of operation.	306
(II) (KK) "Part-time child care center," "part-time	307
center," "part-time type A family child care home," and "part-	308
time type A home" mean a center or type A home that provides	309
child care or publicly funded child care for not more than four	310
hours a day for any child or not more than fifteen consecutive	311
weeks per year, regardless of the number of hours per day.	312
(JJ) (LL) "Place of worship" means a building where	313
activities of an organized religious group are conducted and	314
includes the grounds and any other buildings on the grounds used	315
for such activities.	316
(KK) (MM) "Preschool-age child" means a child who is three	317
years old or older but is not a school-age child.	318
(LL) (NN) "Protective child care" means publicly funded	319
child care for the direct care and protection of a child to whom	320
all of the following apply:	321
(1) A case plan has been prepared and maintained for the	322
child pursuant to section 2151.412 of the Revised Code.	323
(2) The case plan indicates a need for protective care.	324
(3) The child resides with a parent, stepparent, guardian,	325
or another person who stands in loco parentis as defined in	326
rules adopted under section 5104.38 of the Revised Code.	327

(MM) (OO) "Publicly funded child care" means administering	328
to the needs of infants, toddlers, preschool-age children, and	329
school-age children under age thirteen during any part of the	330
twenty-four-hour day by persons other than their caretaker	331
parents for remuneration wholly or in part with federal or state	332
funds, including funds available under the child care block	333
grant act, Title IV-A, and Title XX, distributed by the	334
department of job and family services.	335
(NN) (PP) "Religious activities" means any of the	336
following: worship or other religious services; religious	337
instruction; Sunday school classes or other religious classes	338
conducted during or prior to worship or other religious	339
services; youth or adult fellowship activities; choir or other	340
musical group practices or programs; meals; festivals; or	341
meetings conducted by an organized religious group.	342
(00) (00) "School-age child" means a child who is enrolled	343
in or is eligible to be enrolled in a grade of kindergarten or	344
above but is less than fifteen years old or, in the case of a	345
child who is receiving special needs child care, is less than	346
eighteen years old.	347
(PP) (RR) "Serious risk noncompliance" means a licensure	348
or certification rule violation that leads to a great risk of	349
harm to, or death of, a child, and is observable, not inferable.	350
(QQ)—(SS)_"Special needs child care" means child care	351
provided to a child who is less than eighteen years of age and	352
either has one or more chronic health conditions or does not	353
meet age appropriate expectations in one or more areas of	354
development, including social, emotional, cognitive,	355
communicative, perceptual, motor, physical, and behavioral	356
development and that may include on a regular basis such	357

services, adaptations, modifications, or adjustments needed to	358
assist in the child's function or development.	359
(RR) (TT) "Title IV-A" means Title IV-A of the "Social	360
Security Act," 110 Stat. 2113 (1996), 42 U.S.C. 601, as amended.	361
security neet, fire seas. Fire (1996), 12 o.e.e. oof, as amendea.	001
(SS) (UU) "Title XX" means Title XX of the "Social	362
Security Act," 88 Stat. 2337 (1974), 42 U.S.C. 1397, as amended.	363
(TT) (VV) "Toddler" means a child who is at least eighteen	364
months of age but less than three years of age.	365
(UU) (WW) "Type A family child care home" and "type A	366
home" mean the permanent residence of the administrator in which	367
child care or publicly funded child care is provided for seven	368
to twelve children at one time or a permanent residence of the	369
administrator in which child care is provided for four to twelve	370
children at one time if four or more children at one time are	371
under two years of age. In counting children for the purposes of	372
this division, any children under six years of age who are	373
related to a licensee, administrator, or employee and who are on	374
the premises of the type A home shall be counted. "Type A family	375
child care home" and "type A home" do not include any child day	376
camp.	377
(VV) (XX) "Type B family child care home" and "type B	378
home" mean a permanent residence of the provider in which care	379
is provided for one to six children at one time and in which no	380
more than three children are under two years of age at one time.	381
In counting children for the purposes of this division, any	382
children under six years of age who are related to the provider	383
and who are on the premises of the type B home shall be counted.	384
"Type B family child care home" and "type B home" do not include	385
any child day camp.	386

Sec. 5104.02. (A) The director of job and family services	387
is responsible for licensing child care centers, type A family	388
child care homes, and type B family child care homes. Each	389
entity operating a head start program shall meet the criteria	390
for, and be licensed as, a child care center. The director is	391
responsible for the enforcement of this chapter and of rules	392
promulgated pursuant to this chapter.	393
No person, firm, organization, institution, or agency	394
shall operate, establish, manage, conduct, or maintain a child	395
care center or type A family child care home without a license	396
issued under section 5104.03 of the Revised Code. The current	397
license shall be posted in the center or home in a conspicuous	398
place that is accessible to parents, custodians, or guardians	399
and employees of the center or home at all times when the center	400
or home is in operation.	401
(B) A person, firm, institution, organization, or agency	402
operating any of the following programs is exempt from the	403
requirements of this chapter:	404
(1) A program caring for children that operates for two	405
consecutive weeks or less and not more than six weeks total in	406
each calendar year;	407
(2) Caring for children in places of worship during	408
religious activities while at least one parent, guardian, or	409
custodian of each child is participating in such activities and	410
is readily available;	411
(3) Supervised training, instruction, or activities of	412
children in specific areas, including, but not limited to: art;	413
drama; dance; music; athletic skills or sports; computers; or an	414
educational subject conducted on an organized or periodic basis	415

that a child does not attend for more than eight total hours per	416
week;	417
(4) Programs in which the director determines that at	418
least one parent, custodian, or guardian of each child is on the	419
premises of the facility that offers care and is readily	420
accessible at all times and care is not provided for more than	421
two and one-half hours a day per child;	422
(5) Programs that provide care and are regulated by state	423
departments other than the department of job and family services	424
or the department of education and workforce.	425
(6) Any preschool program or school child program, except	426
a head start program, that is subject to licensure by the	427
department of education and workforce under sections 3301.52 to	428
3301.59 of the Revised Code.	429
(7) Any program providing care that meets all of the	430
following requirements and, on October 20, 1987, was being	431
operated by a nonpublic school that holds a charter issued under	432
section 3301.16 of the Revised Code for kindergarten only:	433
(a) The nonpublic school has given the notice to the state	434
board of education and the director of job and family services	435
required by Section 4 of Substitute House Bill No. 253 of the	436
117th general assembly;	437
(b) The nonpublic school continues to be chartered by the	438
department of education and workforce for kindergarten, or	439
receives and continues to hold a charter from the department for	440
kindergarten through grade five;	441
(c) The program is conducted in a school building;	442
(d) The program is operated in accordance with rules	443

promulgated by the department of education and workforce under	444
section 3301.53 of the Revised Code.	445
(8) A youth development program operated outside of school	446
hours to which all of the following apply:	447
(a) The children enrolled in the program are under	448
nineteen years of age and enrolled in or eligible to be enrolled	449
in a grade of kindergarten or above.	450
(b) The program provides informal care, which is care that	451
does not require parental signature, permission, or notice for	452
the child receiving the care to enter or leave the program.	453
(c) The program provides any of the following supervised	454
activities: educational, recreational, culturally enriching,	455
social, and personal development activities.	456
(d) The entity operating the program is exempt from	457
federal income taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 501(a) and (c)(3).	458
(9) A program caring for children that is operated by a	459
nonchartered, nontax-supported school if the program meets all	460
of the following conditions:	461
(a) The program complies with state and local health,	462
fire, and safety laws.	463
(b) The program annually certifies in a report to the	464
children's parents that the program is in compliance with	465
division (B)(9)(a) of this section and files a copy of the	466
report with the department of job and family services on or	467
before the thirtieth day of September of each year.	468
(c) The program complies with all applicable reporting	469
requirements in the same manner as required by the department of	470
education and workforce for nonchartered, nonpublic primary and	471

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secondary schools.	472
(d) The program is associated with a nonchartered, nontax-	473
supported primary or secondary school.	474
(10) A program that provides activities for children who	475
are five years of age or older and is operated by a county,	476
township, municipal corporation, township park district created	477
under section 511.18 of the Revised Code, park district created	478
under section 1545.04 of the Revised Code, or joint recreation	479
district established under section 755.14 of the Revised Code.	480
(11) A home education learning pod.	481
Sec. 5104.38. In addition to any other rules adopted under	482
this chapter, the director of job and family services shall	483
adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code	484
governing financial and administrative requirements for publicly	485
funded child care and establishing all of the following:	486
(A) Procedures and criteria to be used in making	487
determinations of eligibility for publicly funded child care	488
that give priority to children of families with lower incomes	489
and procedures and criteria for eligibility for publicly funded	490
protective child care or homeless child care. The rules shall	491
specify the maximum amount of income a family may have for	492
initial and continued eligibility. The maximum amount shall not	493
exceed three hundred per cent of the federal poverty line. The	494
rules may specify exceptions to the eligibility requirements in	495
the case of a family that previously received publicly funded	496
child care and is seeking to have the child care reinstated	497
after the family's eligibility was terminated.	498
(B) Procedures under which an applicant for publicly	499
funded child care may receive publicly funded child care while	500

the county department of job and family services determines	501
eligibility and under which a child care provider may appeal a	502
denial of payment under division (A)(2)(b) of section 5104.34 of	503
the Revised Code;	504
(C) A schedule of fees requiring all eligible caretaker	505
parents to pay a fee for publicly funded child care according to	506
income and family size, which shall be uniform for all types of	507
publicly funded child care, except as authorized by rule, and,	508
to the extent permitted by federal law, shall permit the use of	509
state and federal funds to pay the customary deposits and other	510
advance payments that a provider charges all children who	511
receive child care from that provider.	512
(D) A formula for determining the amount of state and	513
federal funds appropriated for publicly funded child care that	514
may be allocated to a county department to use for	515
administrative purposes;	516
(E) Procedures to be followed by the department and county	517
departments in recruiting individuals and groups to become	518
providers of child care;	519
(F) Procedures to be followed in establishing state or	520
local programs designed to assist individuals who are eligible	521
for publicly funded child care in identifying the resources	522
available to them and to refer the individuals to appropriate	523
sources to obtain child care;	524
(G) Procedures to deal with fraud and abuse committed by	525
either recipients or providers of publicly funded child care;	526
(H) Procedures for establishing a child care grant or loan	527
program in accordance with the child care block grant act;	528
(I) Standards and procedures for applicants to apply for	529

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grants and loans, and for the department to make grants and	530
loans;	531
(J) A definition of "person who stands in loco parentis"	532
for the purposes of division $\frac{\text{(LL)}(3)}{\text{(NN)}(3)}$ of section 5104.01	533
of the Revised Code;	534
(K) Procedures for a county department of job and family	535
services to follow in making eligibility determinations and	536
redeterminations for publicly funded child care available	537
through telephone, computer, and other means at locations other	538
than the county department;	539
(L) If the director establishes a different reimbursement	540
rate under division (E)(3)(d) of section 5104.30 of the Revised	541
Code, standards and procedures for determining the amount of the	542
higher payment that is to be issued to a child care provider	543
based on the special needs of the child being served;	544
(M) To the extent permitted by federal law, procedures for	545
paying for up to thirty days of child care for a child whose	546
caretaker parent is seeking employment, taking part in	547
employment orientation activities, or taking part in activities	548
in anticipation of enrolling in or attending an education or	549
training program or activity, if the employment or the education	550
or training program or activity is expected to begin within the	551
thirty-day period;	552
(N) Any other rules necessary to carry out sections	553
5104.30 to 5104.43 of the Revised Code.	554
Section 2. That existing sections 5104.01, 5104.02, and	555
5104.38 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	556
Section 3. That the versions of sections 5104.01, 5104.02,	557
and 5104.38 of the Revised Code that are scheduled to take	558

effect January 1, 2025, be amended to read as follows:	559
Sec. 5104.01. As used in this chapter:	560
(A) "Administrator" means the person responsible for the	561
daily operation of a center, type A home, or approved child day	562
camp. The administrator and the owner may be the same person.	563
(B) "Approved child day camp" means a child day camp	564
approved pursuant to section 5104.22 of the Revised Code.	565
(C) "Authorized representative" means an individual	566
employed by a center, type A home, or approved child day camp	567
that is owned by a person other than an individual and who is	568
authorized by the owner to do all of the following:	569
(1) Communicate on the owner's behalf;	570
(2) Submit on the owner's behalf applications for	571
licensure or approval;	572
(3) Enter into on the owner's behalf provider agreements	573
for publicly funded child care.	574
(D) "Border state child care provider" means a child care	575
provider that is located in a state bordering Ohio and that is	576
licensed, certified, or otherwise approved by that state to	577
provide child care funded by the child care block grant act.	578
(E) "Career pathways model" means an alternative pathway	579
to meeting the requirements to be a child care staff member or	580
administrator that does both of the following:	581
(1) Uses a framework approved by the director of children	582
and youth to document formal education, training, experience,	583
and specialized credentials and certifications;	584
(2) Allows the child care staff member or administrator to	585

achieve a designation as an early childhood professional level	586
one, two, three, four, five, or six.	587
(F) "Caretaker parent" means the father or mother of a	588
child whose presence in the home is needed as the caretaker of	589
the child, a person who has legal custody of a child and whose	590
presence in the home is needed as the caretaker of the child, a	591
guardian of a child whose presence in the home is needed as the	592
caretaker of the child, and any other person who stands in loco	593
parentis with respect to the child and whose presence in the	594
home is needed as the caretaker of the child.	595
(G) "Chartered nonpublic school" means a school that meets	596
standards for nonpublic schools prescribed by the director of	597
education and workforce for nonpublic schools pursuant to	598
section 3301.07 of the Revised Code.	599
(H) "Child" includes an infant, toddler, preschool-age	600
child, or school-age child.	601
(I) "Child care block grant act" means the "Child Care and	602
Development Block Grant Act of 2014," 128 Stat. 1971 (2014), 42	603
U.S.C. 9858, as amended.	604
(J) "Child day camp" means a program in which only school-	605
age children attend or participate, that operates for no more	606
than twelve hours per day and no more than fifteen weeks during	607
the summer. For purposes of this division, the maximum twelve	608
hours of operation time does not include transportation time	609
from a child's home to a child day camp and from a child day	610
camp to a child's home.	611
(K) "Child care" means all of the following:	612
(1) Administering to the needs of infants, toddlers,	613
preschool-age children, and school-age children outside of	614

school hours;	615
(2) By persons other than their parents, guardians, or custodians;	61 <i>6</i>
(3) For part of the twenty-four-hour day;	618
(4) In a place other than a child's own home, except that an in-home aide provides child care in the child's own home;	619 620
(5) By a provider required by this chapter to be licensed or approved by the department of children and youth, certified by a county department of job and family services, or under contract with the department to provide publicly funded child care as described in section 5104.32 of the Revised Code.	621 622 623 624
(L) "Child care center" and "center" mean any place that is not the permanent residence of the licensee or administrator in which child care or publicly funded child care is provided for seven or more children at one time. "Child care center" and "center" do not include any of the following:	626 627 628 629
(1) A place located in and operated by a hospital, as defined in section 3727.01 of the Revised Code, in which the needs of children are administered to, if all the children whose needs are being administered to are monitored under the on-site supervision of a physician licensed under Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code or a registered nurse licensed under Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code, and the services are provided only for children who, in the opinion of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian, are exhibiting symptoms of a communicable disease or other illness or are injured;	631 632 633 634 635 636 638 639
(2) A child day camp;	641
(3) A place that provides care, if all of the following	642

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apply:	643
(a) An organized religious body provides the care;	644
(b) A parent, custodian, or guardian of at least one child	645
receiving care is on the premises and readily accessible at all	646
times;	647
(c) The care is not provided for more than thirty days a	648
year;	649
(d) The care is provided only for preschool-age and	650
school-age children.	651
(M) "Child care resource and referral service	652
organization" means a community-based nonprofit organization	653
that provides child care resource and referral services but not	654
child care.	655
(N) "Child care resource and referral services" means all	656
of the following services:	657
(1) Maintenance of a uniform data base of all child care	658
providers in the community that are in compliance with this	659
chapter, including current occupancy and vacancy data;	660
(2) Provision of individualized consumer education to	661
families seeking child care;	662
(3) Provision of timely referrals of available child care	663
providers to families seeking child care;	664
(4) Recruitment of child care providers;	665
(5) Assistance in developing, conducting, and	666
disseminating training for child care professionals and	667
provision of technical assistance to current and potential child	668
care providers, employers, and the community;	669

(6) Collection and analysis of data on the supply of and	670
demand for child care in the community;	671
(7) Technical assistance concerning locally, state, and	672
federally funded child care and early childhood education	673
programs;	674
(8) Stimulation of employer involvement in making child	675
care more affordable, more available, safer, and of higher	676
quality for their employees and for the community;	677
(9) Provision of written educational materials to	678
caretaker parents and informational resources to child care	679
providers;	680
(10) Coordination of services among child care resource	681
and referral service organizations to assist in developing and	682
maintaining a statewide system of child care resource and	683
referral services if required by the department of children and	684
youth;	685
(11) Cooperation with the county department of job and	686
family services in encouraging the establishment of parent	687
cooperative child care centers and parent cooperative type A	688
family child care homes.	689
(O) "Child care staff member" means an employee of a child	690
care center, type A family child care home, licensed type B	691
family child care home, or approved child day camp who is	692
primarily responsible for the care and supervision of children.	693
The administrator, authorized representative, or owner may be a	694
child care staff member when not involved in other duties.	695
(P) "Drop-in child care center," "drop-in center," "drop-	696
in type A family child care home," and "drop-in type A home"	697
mean a center or type A home that provides child care or	698

publicly funded child care for children on a temporary,	699
irregular basis.	700
(Q) "Employee" means a person who either:	701
(1) Receives compensation for duties performed in a child	702
care center, type A family child care home, licensed type B	703
family child care home, or approved child day camp;	704
(2) Is assigned specific working hours or duties in a	705
child care center, type A family child care home, licensed type	706
B family child care home, or approved child day camp.	707
(R) "Employer" means a person, firm, institution,	708
organization, or agency that operates a child care center, type	709
A family child care home, licensed type B family child care	710
home, or approved child day camp subject to licensure or	711
approval under this chapter.	712
(S) "Federal poverty line" means the official poverty	713
guideline as revised annually in accordance with section 673(2)	714
of the "Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981," 95 Stat.	715
511, 42 U.S.C. 9902, as amended, for a family size equal to the	716
size of the family of the person whose income is being	717
determined.	718
(T) "Head start program" means a school-readiness program	719
that satisfies all of the following:	720
(1) Is for children from birth to age five who are from	721
<pre>low-income families;</pre>	722
(2) Receives funds distributed under the "Improving Head	723
Start for School-Readiness Act of 2007," 42 U.S.C. 9831, as	724
amended;	725
(3) Is licensed as a child care program.	726

(U) "Home education" has the same meaning as in section	727
3321.042 of the Revised Code.	728
(V) "Home education learning pod" means a voluntary	729
association of parents who direct their children's education	730
through home education and includes the following	731
<pre>characteristics:</pre>	732
(1) The parents choose to group their children together in	733
a home or other location at various times, which may include	734
hours when home education is not provided.	735
(2) The pod includes only the parents' children who are	736
receiving home education, except that it also may include	737
siblings of those children, or other children who are under the	738
care of the parents, regardless of age.	739
(3) At least one parent of any of the children	740
participating in the pod must be on the premises while the pod	741
is meeting.	742
(W) "Homeless child care" means child care provided to a	743
child who satisfies any of the following:	744
(1) Is homeless as defined in 42 U.S.C. 11302;	745
(2) Is a homeless child or youth as defined in 42 U.S.C.	746
11434a;	747
(3) Resides temporarily with a caretaker in a facility	748
providing emergency shelter for homeless families or is	749
determined by a county department of job and family services to	750
be homeless.	751
$\frac{(V)-(X)}{(X)}$ "Income" means gross income, as defined in section	752
5107.10 of the Revised Code, less any amounts required by	753
federal statutes or regulations to be disregarded	754

$\frac{(W)-(Y)}{(Y)}$ "Indicator checklist" means an inspection tool,	755
used in conjunction with an instrument-based program monitoring	756
information system, that contains selected licensing	757
requirements that are statistically reliable indicators or	758
predictors of a child care center's, type A family child care	759
home's, or licensed type B family child care home's compliance	760
with licensing requirements.	761
$\frac{(X)-(Z)}{(Z)}$ "Infant" means a child who is less than eighteen	762
months of age.	763
(Y) (AA) "In-home aide" means a person who does not reside	764
with the child but provides care in the child's home and is	765
certified by a county director of job and family services	766
pursuant to section 5104.12 of the Revised Code to provide	767
publicly funded child care to a child in a child's own home	768
pursuant to this chapter and any rules adopted under it.	769
(Z) (BB) "Instrument-based program monitoring information	770
system" means a method to assess compliance with licensing	771
requirements for child care centers, type A family child care	772
homes, and licensed type B family child care homes in which each	773
licensing requirement is assigned a weight indicative of the	774
relative importance of the requirement to the health, growth,	775
and safety of the children that is used to develop an indicator	776
checklist.	777
(AA) (CC) "License capacity" means the maximum number in	778
each age category of children who may be cared for in a child	779
care center, type A family child care home, or licensed type B	780
family child care home at one time as determined by the director	781
of children and youth considering building occupancy limits	782
established by the department of commerce, amount of available	783
indoor floor space and outdoor play space, and amount of	784

available play equipment, materials, and supplies.	785
(BB) (DD) "Licensed child care program" means any of the	786
following:	787
(1) A child care center licensed by the department of	788
children and youth pursuant to this chapter;	789
(2) A type A family child care home or type B family child	790
care home licensed by the department of children and youth	791
pursuant to this chapter;	792
(3) A licensed preschool program or licensed school child	793
program.	794
(CC) (EE) "Licensed preschool program" or "licensed school	795
child program" means a preschool program or school child	796
program, as defined in section 3301.52 of the Revised Code, that	797
is licensed by the department of children and youth pursuant to	798
sections 3301.52 to 3301.59 of the Revised Code.	799
(DD) (FF) "Licensed type B family child care home" and	800
"licensed type B home" mean a type B family child care home for	801
which there is a valid license issued by the director of	802
children and youth pursuant to section 5104.03 of the Revised	803
Code.	804
(EE) (GG) "Licensee" means the owner of a child care	805
center, type A family child care home, or type B family child	806
care home that is licensed pursuant to this chapter and who is	807
responsible for ensuring compliance with this chapter and rules	808
adopted pursuant to this chapter.	809
(FF) (HH) "Operate a child day camp" means to operate,	810
establish, manage, conduct, or maintain a child day camp.	811
(II) "Owner" includes a person as defined in section	812

1.59 of the Revised Code, or government entity.	813
(HH) (JJ) "Parent cooperative child care center," "parent	814
cooperative center," "parent cooperative type A family child	815
care home," and "parent cooperative type A home" mean a	816
corporation or association organized for providing educational	817
services to the children of members of the corporation or	818
association, without gain to the corporation or association as	819
an entity, in which the services of the corporation or	820
association are provided only to children of the members of the	821
corporation or association, ownership and control of the	822
corporation or association rests solely with the members of the	823
corporation or association, and at least one parent-member of	824
the corporation or association is on the premises of the center	825
or type A home during its hours of operation.	826
(II) (KK) "Part-time child care center," "part-time	827
center," "part-time type A family child care home," and "part-	828
time type A home" mean a center or type A home that provides	829
child care or publicly funded child care for not more than four	830
hours a day for any child or not more than fifteen consecutive	831
weeks per year, regardless of the number of hours per day.	832
(JJ) (LL) "Place of worship" means a building where	833
activities of an organized religious group are conducted and	834
includes the grounds and any other buildings on the grounds used	835
for such activities.	836
(KK) (MM) "Preschool-age child" means a child who is three	837
years old or older but is not a school-age child.	838
(LL) (NN) "Protective child care" means publicly funded	839
child care for the direct care and protection of a child to whom	840
all of the following apply:	841

(1) A case plan has been prepared and maintained for the	842
child pursuant to section 2151.412 of the Revised Code.	843
(2) The case plan indicates a need for protective care.	844
(3) The child resides with a parent, stepparent, guardian,	845
or another person who stands in loco parentis as defined in	846
rules adopted under section 5104.38 of the Revised Code.	847
(MM) (OO) "Publicly funded child care" means administering	848
to the needs of infants, toddlers, preschool-age children, and	849
school-age children under age thirteen during any part of the	850
twenty-four-hour day by persons other than their caretaker	851
parents for remuneration wholly or in part with federal or state	852
funds, including funds available under the child care block	853
grant act, Title IV-A, and Title XX, distributed by the	854
department of children and youth.	855
(NN) (PP) "Religious activities" means any of the	856
following: worship or other religious services; religious	857
instruction; Sunday school classes or other religious classes	858
conducted during or prior to worship or other religious	859
services; youth or adult fellowship activities; choir or other	860
musical group practices or programs; meals; festivals; or	861
meetings conducted by an organized religious group.	862
(00) (QQ) "School-age child" means a child who is enrolled	863
in or is eligible to be enrolled in a grade of kindergarten or	864
above but is less than fifteen years old or, in the case of a	865
child who is receiving special needs child care, is less than	866
eighteen years old.	867
(PP) (RR) "Serious risk noncompliance" means a licensure	868
or certification rule violation that leads to a great risk of	869
harm to, or death of, a child, and is observable, not inferable.	870

(QQ) (SS) "Special needs child care" means child care	871
provided to a child who is less than eighteen years of age and	872
either has one or more chronic health conditions or does not	873
meet age appropriate expectations in one or more areas of	874
development, including social, emotional, cognitive,	875
communicative, perceptual, motor, physical, and behavioral	876
development and that may include on a regular basis such	877
services, adaptations, modifications, or adjustments needed to	878
assist in the child's function or development.	879
(RR) (TT) "Title IV-A" means Title IV-A of the "Social	880
Security Act," 110 Stat. 2113 (1996), 42 U.S.C. 601, as amended.	881
(SS) (UU) "Title XX" means Title XX of the "Social	882
Security Act," 88 Stat. 2337 (1974), 42 U.S.C. 1397, as amended.	883
(TT) (VV) "Toddler" means a child who is at least eighteen	884
months of age but less than three years of age.	885
(UU) (WW) "Type A family child care home" and "type A	886
home" mean the permanent residence of the administrator in which	887
child care or publicly funded child care is provided for seven	888
to twelve children at one time or a permanent residence of the	889
administrator in which child care is provided for four to twelve	890
children at one time if four or more children at one time are	891
under two years of age. In counting children for the purposes of	892
this division, any children under six years of age who are	893
related to a licensee, administrator, or employee and who are on	894
the premises of the type A home shall be counted. "Type A family	895
child care home" and "type A home" do not include any child day	896
camp.	897
(VV) (XX) "Type B family child care home" and "type B	898
home" mean a permanent residence of the provider in which care	899

is provided for one to six children at one time and in which no	900
more than three children are under two years of age at one time.	901
In counting children for the purposes of this division, any	902
children under six years of age who are related to the provider	903
and who are on the premises of the type B home shall be counted.	904
"Type B family child care home" and "type B home" do not include	905
any child day camp.	906
Sec. 5104.02. (A) The director of children and youth is	907
responsible for licensing child care centers, type A family	908
child care homes, and type B family child care homes. Each	909
entity operating a head start program shall meet the criteria	910
for, and be licensed as, a child care center. The director is	911
responsible for the enforcement of this chapter and of rules	912
promulgated pursuant to this chapter.	913
No person, firm, organization, institution, or agency	914
shall operate, establish, manage, conduct, or maintain a child	915
care center or type A family child care home without a license	916
issued under section 5104.03 of the Revised Code. The current	917
license shall be posted in the center or home in a conspicuous	918
place that is accessible to parents, custodians, or guardians	919
and employees of the center or home at all times when the center	920
or home is in operation.	921
(B) A person, firm, institution, organization, or agency	922
operating any of the following programs is exempt from the	923
requirements of this chapter:	924
(1) A program caring for children that operates for two	925
consecutive weeks or less and not more than six weeks total in	926
each calendar year;	927

(2) Caring for children in places of worship during

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religious activities while at least one parent, guardian, or	929
custodian of each child is participating in such activities and	930
is readily available;	931
(3) Supervised training, instruction, or activities of	932
children in specific areas, including, but not limited to: art;	933
drama; dance; music; athletic skills or sports; computers; or an	934
educational subject conducted on an organized or periodic basis	935
that a child does not attend for more than eight total hours per	936
week;	937
(4) Programs in which the director determines that at	938
least one parent, custodian, or guardian of each child is on the	939
premises of the facility that offers care and is readily	940
accessible at all times and care is not provided for more than	941
two and one-half hours a day per child;	942
(5) Programs that provide care and are regulated by state	943
departments other than the department of children and youth or	944
the department of education and workforce.	945
(6) Any preschool program or school child program, except	946
a head start program, that is subject to licensure by the	947
department of children and youth under sections 3301.52 to	948
3301.59 of the Revised Code.	949
(7) Any program providing care that meets all of the	950
following requirements and, on October 20, 1987, was being	951
operated by a nonpublic school that holds a charter issued under	952
section 3301.16 of the Revised Code for kindergarten only:	953
(a) The nonpublic school has given the notice to the state	954
board of education and the director of children and youth	955
required by Section 4 of Substitute House Bill No. 253 of the	956
117th general assembly;	957

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(b) The nonpublic school continues to be chartered by the	958
department of education and workforce for kindergarten, or	959
receives and continues to hold a charter from the department for	960
kindergarten through grade five;	961
(c) The program is conducted in a school building;	962
(d) The program is operated in accordance with rules	963
promulgated by the department of children and youth under	964
section 3301.53 of the Revised Code.	965
(8) A youth development program operated outside of school	966
hours to which all of the following apply:	967
(a) The children enrolled in the program are under	968
nineteen years of age and enrolled in or eligible to be enrolled	969
in a grade of kindergarten or above.	970
(b) The program provides informal care, which is care that	971
does not require parental signature, permission, or notice for	972
the child receiving the care to enter or leave the program.	973
(c) The program provides any of the following supervised	974
activities: educational, recreational, culturally enriching,	975
social, and personal development activities.	976
(d) The entity operating the program is exempt from	977
federal income taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 501(a) and (c)(3).	978
(9) A program caring for children that is operated by a	979
nonchartered, nontax-supported school if the program meets all	980
of the following conditions:	981
(a) The program complies with state and local health,	982
fire, and safety laws.	983
(b) The program annually certifies in a report to the	984

children's parents that the program is in compliance with	985
division (B)(9)(a) of this section and files a copy of the	986
report with the department of children and youth on or before	987
the thirtieth day of September of each year.	988
(c) The program complies with all applicable reporting	989
requirements in the same manner as required by the department of	990
education and workforce for nonchartered, nonpublic primary and	991
secondary schools.	992
(d) The program is associated with a nonchartered, nontax-	993
supported primary or secondary school.	994
(10) A program that provides activities for children who	995
are five years of age or older and is operated by a county,	996
township, municipal corporation, township park district created	997
under section 511.18 of the Revised Code, park district created	998
under section 1545.04 of the Revised Code, or joint recreation	999
district established under section 755.14 of the Revised Code.	1000
(11) A home education learning pod.	1001
Sec. 5104.38. In addition to any other rules adopted under	1002
this chapter, the director of children and youth services—shall	1003
adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code	1004
governing financial and administrative requirements for publicly	1005
funded child care and establishing all of the following:	1006
(A) Procedures and criteria to be used in making	1007
determinations of eligibility for publicly funded child care	1008
that give priority to children of families with lower incomes	1009
and procedures and criteria for eligibility for publicly funded	1010
protective child care or homeless child care. The rules shall	1011
specify the maximum amount of income a family may have for	1012
initial and continued eligibility. The maximum amount shall not	1013

exceed three hundred per cent of the federal poverty line. The	1014
rules may specify exceptions to the eligibility requirements in	1015
the case of a family that previously received publicly funded	1016
child care and is seeking to have the child care reinstated	1017
after the family's eligibility was terminated.	1018
(B) Procedures under which an applicant for publicly	1019
funded child care may receive publicly funded child care while	1020
the county department of job and family services determines	1021
eligibility and under which a child care provider may appeal a	1022
denial of payment under division (A)(2)(b) of section 5104.34 of	1023
the Revised Code;	1024
(C) A schedule of fees requiring all eligible caretaker	1025
parents to pay a fee for publicly funded child care according to	1026
income and family size, which shall be uniform for all types of	1027
publicly funded child care, except as authorized by rule, and,	1028
to the extent permitted by federal law, shall permit the use of	1029
state and federal funds to pay the customary deposits and other	1030
advance payments that a provider charges all children who	1031
receive child care from that provider.	1032
(D) A formula for determining the amount of state and	1033
federal funds appropriated for publicly funded child care that	1034
may be allocated to a county department to use for	1035
administrative purposes;	1036
(E) Procedures to be followed by the department and county	1037
departments in recruiting individuals and groups to become	1038
providers of child care;	1039
(F) Procedures to be followed in establishing state or	1040
local programs designed to assist individuals who are eligible	1041

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for publicly funded child care in identifying the resources

available to them and to refer the individuals to appropriate	1043
sources to obtain child care;	1044
(G) Procedures to deal with fraud and abuse committed by	1045
either recipients or providers of publicly funded child care;	1046
(H) Procedures for establishing a child care grant or loan	1047
program in accordance with the child care block grant act;	1048
(I) Standards and procedures for applicants to apply for	1049
grants and loans, and for the department to make grants and	1050
loans;	1051
(J) A definition of "person who stands in loco parentis"	1052
for the purposes of division $\frac{\text{(LL) (3)}}{\text{(NN) (3)}}$ of section 5104.01	1053
of the Revised Code;	1054
(K) Procedures for a county department of job and family	1055
services to follow in making eligibility determinations and	1056
redeterminations for publicly funded child care available	1057
through telephone, computer, and other means at locations other	1058
than the county department;	1059
(L) If the director establishes a different reimbursement	1060
rate under division (E)(3)(d) of section 5104.30 of the Revised	1061
Code, standards and procedures for determining the amount of the	1062
higher payment that is to be issued to a child care provider	1063
based on the special needs of the child being served;	1064
(M) To the extent permitted by federal law, procedures for	1065
paying for up to thirty days of child care for a child whose	1066
caretaker parent is seeking employment, taking part in	1067
employment orientation activities, or taking part in activities	1068
in anticipation of enrolling in or attending an education or	1069
training program or activity, if the employment or the education	1070
or training program or activity is expected to begin within the	1071

thirty-day period;	1072
(N) Any other rules necessary to carry out sections	1073
5104.30 to 5104.43 of the Revised Code.	1074
Section 4. That the existing versions of sections 5104.01,	1075
5104.02, and 5104.38 of the Revised Code that are scheduled to	1076
take effect January 1, 2025, are hereby repealed.	1077
Section 5. Sections 3 and 4 of this act take effect	1078
January 1, 2025, or on the effective date of this section,	1079
whichever is later.	1080