

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 2717**

Ordered by the House April 4  
Including House Amendments dated April 4

Sponsored by Representative NERON; Representatives MARSH, NGUYEN H, OWENS, REYNOLDS (Pre-session filed.)

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

*[Establishes oversight of outdoor preschool programs by Office of Child Care. Prescribes requirements for licensure as outdoor preschool program.]*

**Adds outdoor child care program to definition of "child care facility." Requires Early Learning Council to adopt rules governing the operation of outdoor child care programs.**  
**Declares emergency, effective on passage.**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to outdoor preschool programs; creating new provisions; amending ORS 329A.250, 329A.280  
3 and 329A.290; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 329A.250, as amended by section 6, chapter 90, Oregon Laws 2022, is amended  
6 to read:

7 329A.250. As used in ORS 329A.030 and 329A.250 to 329A.450, unless the context requires oth-  
8 erwise:

9 (1) "Babysitter" means a person who goes into the home of a child to give care during the  
10 temporary absence of the parent or legal guardian or custodian.

11 (2) "Certification" means the certification that is issued under ORS 329A.280 by the Office of  
12 Child Care to a family child care home, child care center or other child care facility.

13 (3) "Child" means a child under 13 years of age or a child under 18 years of age who has special  
14 needs or disabilities and requires a level of care that is above normal for the child's age.

15 (4)(a) "Child care" means the care, supervision and guidance on a regular basis of a child, un-  
16 accompanied by a parent, guardian or custodian, provided to a child during a part of the 24 hours  
17 of the day, in a place other than the child's home, with or without compensation.

18 (b) "Child care" does not include care provided:

19 (A) In the home of the child;

20 (B) By the child's parent, guardian, or person acting in loco parentis;

21 (C) By a person related to the child by blood or marriage within the fourth degree as determined  
22 by civil law;

23 (D) On an occasional basis by a person not ordinarily engaged in providing child care;

24 (E) By providers of medical services;

25 (F) By a babysitter;

26 (G) By a person who cares for children from only one family other than the person's own family;

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

- 1 (H) By a person who cares for no more than three children other than the person's own children;  
2 or
- 3 (I) By a person who is a member of the child's extended family, as determined by the office on  
4 a case-by-case basis.
- 5 (5) "Child care facility" means any facility that provides child care to children, including a day  
6 nursery, nursery school, child care center, **outdoor child care program**, certified or registered  
7 family child care home or similar unit operating under any name, but not including any:
- 8 (a) Preschool recorded program.
- 9 (b) Facility providing care for school-age children that is primarily a single enrichment activity,  
10 for eight hours or less a week.
- 11 (c) Facility providing care that is primarily group athletic or social activities sponsored by or  
12 under the supervision of an organized club or hobby group.
- 13 (d) Facility operated by:
- 14 (A) A school district as defined in ORS 332.002;
- 15 (B) A political subdivision of this state; or
- 16 (C) A governmental agency.
- 17 (e) Residential facility licensed under ORS 443.400 to 443.455.
- 18 (f) Babysitters.
- 19 (g) Facility operated as a parent cooperative for no more than four hours a day.
- 20 (h) Facility providing care while the child's parent remains on the premises and is engaged in  
21 an activity offered by the facility or in other nonwork activity.
- 22 (i) Facility operated as a school-age recorded program.
- 23 (6) "Family" has the meaning given that term in ORS 329.145.
- 24 (7) "Occasional" means that care is provided for no more than 70 days in any calendar year.
- 25 (8) "Parent cooperative" means a child care program in which:
- 26 (a) Care is provided by parents on a rotating basis;
- 27 (b) Membership in the cooperative includes parents;
- 28 (c) There are written policies and procedures; and
- 29 (d) A board of directors that includes parents of the children cared for by the cooperative con-  
30 trols the policies and procedures of the program.
- 31 (9) "Preschool recorded program" means a facility providing care for preschool children that is  
32 primarily educational for four hours or less per day and where no child is present at the facility for  
33 more than four hours per day.
- 34 (10) "Record" means the record that is issued under ORS 329A.255 to a preschool recorded  
35 program or a school-age recorded program.
- 36 (11) "Registration" means the registration that is issued under ORS 329A.330 by the Office of  
37 Child Care to a family child care home where care is provided in the family living quarters of the  
38 provider's home.
- 39 (12) "School age" means of an age eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten or above on or before  
40 the first day of the current school year.
- 41 (13) "School-age recorded program" means a program for school-age children:
- 42 (a) That is not operated by a school district as defined in ORS 332.002;
- 43 (b) That is not required to be certified under ORS 329A.280 or registered under ORS 329A.330;
- 44 and
- 45 (c) In which youth development activities are provided to children during hours that school is

1 not in session and does not take the place of a parent's care.

2 (14) "Youth development activities" means care, supervision or guidance that is intended for  
3 enrichment, including but not limited to teaching skills or proficiency in physical, social or educa-  
4 tional activities such as tutoring, music lessons, social activities, sports and recreational activities.

5 **SECTION 2.** ORS 329A.250, as amended by section 40, chapter 631, Oregon Laws 2021, section  
6 23, chapter 27, Oregon Laws 2022, and section 5, chapter 90, Oregon Laws 2022, is amended to read:

7 329A.250. As used in ORS 329A.030, 329A.250 to 329A.450 and 329A.500, unless the context re-  
8 quires otherwise:

9 (1) "Babysitter" means a person who goes into the home of a child to give care during the  
10 temporary absence of the parent or legal guardian or custodian.

11 (2) "Certification" means the certification that is issued under ORS 329A.280 by the Office of  
12 Child Care to a family child care home, child care center or other child care facility.

13 (3) "Child" means a child under 13 years of age or a child under 18 years of age who has special  
14 needs or disabilities and requires a level of care that is above normal for the child's age.

15 (4)(a) "Child care" means the care, supervision and guidance on a regular basis of a child, un-  
16 accompanied by a parent, guardian or custodian, provided to a child during a part of the 24 hours  
17 of the day, in a place other than the child's home, with or without compensation.

18 (b) "Child care" does not include care provided:

19 (A) In the home of the child;

20 (B) By the child's parent, guardian, or person acting in loco parentis;

21 (C) By a person related to the child by blood or marriage within the fourth degree as determined  
22 by civil law;

23 (D) On an occasional basis by a person not ordinarily engaged in providing child care;

24 (E) By providers of medical services;

25 (F) By a babysitter;

26 (G) By a person who cares for children from only one family other than the person's own family;

27 (H) By a person who cares for no more than three children other than the person's own children;

28 or

29 (I) By a person who is a member of the child's extended family, as determined by the office on  
30 a case-by-case basis.

31 (5) "Child care facility" means any facility that provides child care to children, including a day  
32 nursery, nursery school, child care center, **outdoor child care program**, certified or registered  
33 family child care home or similar unit operating under any name, but not including any:

34 (a) Preschool recorded program.

35 (b) Facility providing care for school-age children that is primarily a single enrichment activity,  
36 for eight hours or less a week.

37 (c) Facility providing care that is primarily group athletic or social activities sponsored by or  
38 under the supervision of an organized club or hobby group.

39 (d) Facility operated by:

40 (A) A school district as defined in ORS 332.002;

41 (B) A political subdivision of this state; or

42 (C) A governmental agency.

43 (e) Residential facility licensed under ORS 443.400 to 443.455.

44 (f) Babysitters.

45 (g) Facility operated as a parent cooperative for no more than four hours a day.

1 (h) Facility providing care while the child's parent remains on the premises and is engaged in  
2 an activity offered by the facility or in other nonwork activity.

3 (i) Facility operated as a school-age recorded program.

4 (6) "Family" has the meaning given that term in ORS 329.155.

5 (7) "Occasional" means that care is provided for no more than 70 days in any calendar year.

6 (8) "Parent cooperative" means a child care program in which:

7 (a) Care is provided by parents on a rotating basis;

8 (b) Membership in the cooperative includes parents;

9 (c) There are written policies and procedures; and

10 (d) A board of directors that includes parents of the children cared for by the cooperative con-  
11 trols the policies and procedures of the program.

12 (9) "Preschool recorded program" means a facility providing care for preschool children that is  
13 primarily educational for four hours or less per day and where no child is present at the facility for  
14 more than four hours per day.

15 (10) "Record" means the record that is issued under ORS 329A.255 to a preschool recorded  
16 program or a school-age recorded program.

17 (11) "Registration" means the registration that is issued under ORS 329A.330 by the Office of  
18 Child Care to a family child care home where care is provided in the family living quarters of the  
19 provider's home.

20 (12) "School age" means of an age eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten or above on or before  
21 the first day of the current school year.

22 (13) "School-age recorded program" means a program for school-age children:

23 (a) That is not operated by a school district as defined in ORS 332.002;

24 (b) That is not required to be certified under ORS 329A.280 or registered under ORS 329A.330;  
25 and

26 (c) In which youth development activities are provided to children during hours that school is  
27 not in session and does not take the place of a parent's care.

28 (14)(a) "Subsidized care" means the care, supervision and guidance on a regular basis of a child,  
29 unaccompanied by a parent, guardian or custodian, provided to a child during a part of the 24 hours  
30 of a day, paid for in whole or in part by public funds.

31 (b) "Subsidized care" does not include care provided:

32 (A) By the child's parent, guardian or person acting in loco parentis;

33 (B) By a sibling living in the same home as the child;

34 (C) By a person on the same subsidized care case of a child in care; or

35 (D) By a provider of medical services, as determined by the office on a case-by-case basis.

36 (15) "Subsidized care facility" means any facility that provides subsidized care to children, in-  
37 cluding a day nursery, nursery school, child care center, certified or registered family child care  
38 home or similar unit operating under any name, but not including any program or facility identified  
39 by the Early Learning Council by rule.

40 (16) "Youth development activities" means care, supervision or guidance that is intended for  
41 enrichment, including but not limited to teaching skills or proficiency in physical, social or educa-  
42 tional activities such as tutoring, music lessons, social activities, sports and recreational activities.

43 **SECTION 3.** ORS 329A.280 is amended to read:

44 329A.280. (1) A person may not operate a child care facility, except a facility subject to the  
45 registration requirements of ORS 329A.330, without a certification for the facility from the Office

1 of Child Care.

2 (2) The Early Learning Council shall adopt rules for the certification of a family child care home  
3 caring for not more than 16 children. Rules may be adopted specifically for certified child care fa-  
4 cilities operated in a single-family dwelling or other dwelling. Notwithstanding fire and other safety  
5 regulations, the rules that the council adopts for certified child care facilities shall set standards  
6 that can be met without significant architectural modification. In adopting the rules, the council  
7 may consider and set limits according to factors including the age of children in care, the  
8 ambulatory ability of children in care, the number of the provider's children present, the length of  
9 time a particular child is continuously cared for and the total amount of time a particular child is  
10 cared for within a given unit of time. The rules must require compliance with the provisions of ORS  
11 329A.600.

12 (3) In addition to rules adopted for and applied to a certified family child care home providing  
13 child care for not more than 16 children, the council shall adopt and apply separate rules appro-  
14 priate for any child care facility that is a child care center **or an outdoor child care program.**

15 (4) Any person seeking to operate a child care facility may apply for a certification for the fa-  
16 cility from the Office of Child Care and receive a certification upon meeting certification require-  
17 ments.

18 (5) A facility described in ORS 329A.250 (5)(d) may, but is not required to, apply for a certi-  
19 fication under this section and receive a certification upon meeting certification requirements.

20 **SECTION 4.** ORS 329A.290 is amended to read:

21 329A.290. A person applying for a certification for a child care facility shall demonstrate to the  
22 satisfaction of the Office of Child Care that:

23 (1) The moral character and habits of the person will not endanger the well-being of children  
24 for whom the person is to provide care.

25 (2) The attitude of the person toward children and understanding of their needs qualify the  
26 person to care for children.

27 (3) The person is physically and mentally capable of caring for children.

28 (4) The facility and its operation are adequate to protect the health, the safety and the physical,  
29 moral and mental well-being of the children to be cared for in the facility, including but not limited  
30 to:

31 (a) Adequate staffing by suitable persons qualified by education or experience to meet their re-  
32 spective responsibilities in the care of children.

33 (b) Adequate physical facilities for the care of children, such as:

34 **(A) For family child care homes and child care centers,** building construction, sanitation,  
35 plumbing, heating, lighting, ventilation, maintenance, indoor and outdoor activity areas and fire  
36 protection.

37 **(B) For outdoor child care programs, sanitation, maintenance, food preparation and food**  
38 **storage areas.**

39 (c) A program of activities conforming to recognized practices in the areas of child welfare,  
40 education and physical and mental health to provide opportunity for development and recreation.

41 (d) Exclusion from the facility of individuals whose presence may be detrimental to the welfare  
42 of children, including exclusion of any individual with a criminal record indicating conviction of any  
43 crime which would bar the individual from operating or being employed in a child care facility under  
44 ORS 329A.260.

45 **SECTION 5. (1) The amendments to ORS 329A.250, 329A.280 and 329A.290 by sections 1**

1 to 4 of this 2023 Act become operative July 1, 2025.

2 (2) Notwithstanding the operative date set forth in subsection (1) of this section, the  
3 Department of Early Learning and Care and the Early Learning Council may take any action  
4 before the operative date set forth in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary for the  
5 department and the council to exercise, on and after the operative date set forth in sub-  
6 section (1) of this section, all of the duties, functions and powers conferred on the depart-  
7 ment and the council by the amendments to ORS 329A.250, 329A.280 and 329A.290 by sections  
8 1 to 4 of this 2023 Act.

9 SECTION 6. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
10 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect  
11 on its passage.

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