A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO EXTEND THE EXPIRATION DATE TO HOLD HARMLESS CERTAIN
FACILITIES WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
RESUMES ENVIRONMENTAL RATING SCALE (ERS) ASSESSMENTS FOR
LICENSED CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND TO REQUIRE THE NORTH CAROLINA
CHILD CARE COMMISSION TO COMPLETE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
STAR-RATING SYSTEM REFORM AND REPORT THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS TO
THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) Section 2 of S.L. 2021-127 reads as rewritten:
"SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, when ERS
assessments resume and the Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division) is
awarding quality rating improvement system (QRIS) "education points" to a licensed child care
facility toward its star rating, if the percentage of lead teachers in the program required to meet
the "rated licensed education requirements" criteria is set at seventy-five percent (75%) for the
program to earn those "education points" toward the facility's star rating, the Division shall lower
the seventy-five percent (75%) threshold to fifty percent (50%) of lead teachers through June 30,
2023-2026."

SECTION 1.(b) Section 3 of S.L. 2021-127 reads as rewritten:
"SECTION 3. Section 1 of this act is effective when it becomes law and expires six months
after the date the Governor signs an executive order rescinding Executive Order No. 116,
Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent
the Spread of COVID-19. June 30, 2024. Section 2 of this act is effective when it becomes law
and expires June 30, 2023-2026. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law."

SECTION 2. The North Carolina Child Care Commission (Commission) shall
complete recommendations for quality rating improvement system (QRIS/Star-Rating System)
reform by March 31, 2024, and submit its QRIS reform recommendations to the Joint Legislative
Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services before the 2024 Legislative Session begins.
The Commission's QRIS reform recommendations shall include accreditations from national
early childhood education (ECE) accreditation organizations as an alternative pathway for
licensed child care programs to earn a star rating equivalent to each accreditation's standards,
including accreditations from any of the following organizations:
(1) National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation.
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<th>National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC).</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA).</td>
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<td>National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC).</td>
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<td>American Montessori Society (AMS).</td>
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<td>International Montessori Council (IMC).</td>
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<td>Cognia (formerly AdvanceED).</td>
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**SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.