

(b) The purpose of this subtitle is not to limit a parent in getting the help of responsible relatives or friends in giving day care for a child, but is to aid each parent and protect each child from the risk present if:

(1) The child is cared for by an individual other than a relative or friend; and

(2) Children of more than one family are cared for together or, on different days, use the same facilities.

(C) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS THAT THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF DAY CARE PLACEMENTS FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 2 YEARS. TO ALLEVIATE THIS SHORTAGE, THE DEPARTMENT IS INSTRUCTED TO ADAPT ITS REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE REGULATIONS FOR SMALL DAY CARE CENTERS WHICH CARE FOR INFANTS AND OTHER CHILDREN IN A HOMELIKE ENVIRONMENT.

14-104.

(a) The Secretary shall adopt rules and regulations for licensing and operating group day care centers.

(b) These rules and regulations shall:

(1) Ensure safe and sanitary conditions in group day care centers;

(2) Ensure proper care, protection, and supervision of children in group day care centers;

(3) Promote the sound growth and development of children in group day care centers; [and]

(4) BE ADAPTED FOR CENTERS IN RESIDENCES OR OTHER FACILITIES WITH CAPACITIES OF BETWEEN 7 AND 12 CHILDREN TO ENCOURAGE THE CARE OF INFANTS AND OTHER CHILDREN IN A HOMELIKE ENVIRONMENT, WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO THE IMPRACTICABILITY OF CONFORMING A RESIDENCE TO STANDARDS APPROPRIATE TO INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENTS; AND

[(4)] (5) Carry out otherwise the purposes and requirements of this subtitle.

SECTION -2- 3 . AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any person who, on June 30, 1982, is licensed by the Department of Human Resources to provide family day care shall be deemed to be registered under the provisions of this Act; any requirements of this Act relating to "prospective providers" or "initial registration" do not apply to persons so situated.