

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 482

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCHUPP.

Read 1st time February 23, 2015, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

2247S.01I

AN ACT

To repeal sections 210.211 and 210.245, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to child care facilities, with existing penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 210.211 and 210.245, RSMo, are repealed and three
2 new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 210.209, 210.211,
3 and 210.245, to read as follows:

**210.209. Sections 210.211 and 210.245 shall be known and may be
2 cited as "Nathan's Law".**

210.211. 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to establish, maintain or
2 operate a child-care facility for children, or to advertise or hold himself or herself
3 out as being able to perform any of the services as defined in section 210.201,
4 without having in effect a written license granted by the department of health
5 and senior services; except that nothing in sections 210.203 to 210.245 shall apply
6 to:

7 (1) Any person who is caring for four or fewer children. For purposes of
8 this subdivision, children who are related by blood, marriage or adoption to such
9 person within the third degree shall [not] **only** be considered in the total number
10 of children being cared for **if the person is also caring for at least two other**
11 **children for pecuniary gain who are unrelated by blood, marriage, or**
12 **adoption to such person within the third degree and such children are**
13 **not being cared for due to extenuating circumstances not exceeding**
14 **thirty days within one calendar year. For purposes of this subdivision,**
15 **children who live in the caregiver's home and are eligible for**
16 **enrollment in a public kindergarten or elementary school shall not be**
17 **considered in the total number of children being cared for;**

18 (2) Any person who has been duly appointed by a court of competent
19 jurisdiction the guardian of the person of the child or children, or the person who
20 has legal custody of the child or children;

21 (3) Any person who receives free of charge, and not as a business, for
22 periods not exceeding ninety consecutive days, as bona fide, occasional and
23 personal guests the child or children of personal friends of such person, and who
24 receives custody of no other unrelated child or children;

25 (4) Any graded boarding school, summer camp, hospital, sanitarium or
26 home which is conducted in good faith primarily to provide education, recreation,
27 medical treatment, or nursing or convalescent care for children;

28 (5) Any child-care facility maintained or operated under the exclusive
29 control of a religious organization. When a nonreligious organization, having as
30 its principal purpose the provision of child-care services, enters into an
31 arrangement with a religious organization for the maintenance or operation of a
32 child-care facility, the facility is not under the exclusive control of the religious
33 organization;

34 (6) Any residential facility or day program licensed by the department of
35 mental health pursuant to sections 630.705 to 630.760 which provides care,
36 treatment and habilitation exclusively to children who have a primary diagnosis
37 of mental disorder, mental illness, intellectual disability or developmental
38 disability, as defined in section 630.005; and

39 (7) Any nursery school.

40 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, no
41 child-care facility shall be exempt from licensure if such facility receives any state
42 or federal funds for providing care for children, except for federal funds for those
43 programs which meet the requirements for participation in the Child and Adult
44 Care Food Program pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 1766. Grants to parents for
45 child care pursuant to sections 210.201 to 210.257 shall not be construed to be
46 funds received by a person or facility listed in subdivisions (1) and (5) of
47 subsection 1 of this section.

48 3. **[Any] All child care [facility not exempt from licensure] facilities**
49 shall disclose the licensure status of the facility to the parents or guardians of
50 children for which the facility provides care. No child care facility exempt from
51 licensure shall represent to any parent or guardian of children for which the
52 facility provides care that the facility is licensed when such facility is in fact not
53 licensed.

54 4. Any in-home licensed child care facility that is organized as a
55 corporation, association, firm, partnership, proprietorship, limited liability
56 company, or any other type of business entity in this state shall qualify for the
57 exemption for related children for children who are related to the member of the
58 corporation, association, firm, partnership, proprietorship, limited liability
59 company, or other type of business entity who is responsible for the daily
60 operation of the child care facility and who meets the requirements of the child
61 care provider. If more than one member of the corporation, association, firm,
62 partnership, proprietorship, limited liability company, or other type of business
63 entity is responsible for the daily operation of the child care facility, the
64 exemption for related children shall only be granted for children who are related
65 to one of the members. All child care facilities under this subsection shall
66 disclose the licensure status of the facility to the parents or guardians of children
67 for which the facility provides care. A parent or guardian shall sign a written
68 notice indicating he or she is aware of the licensure status of the facility. The
69 facility shall keep a copy of this signed written notice on file. All child care
70 facilities shall provide the parent or guardian enrolling a child in the facility with
71 a written explanation of the disciplinary philosophy and policies of the child care
72 facility.

210.245. 1. Any person who violates any provision of sections 210.201 to
2 210.245, or who for such person or for any other person makes materially false
3 statements in order to obtain a license or the renewal thereof pursuant to sections
4 210.201 to 210.245, shall be guilty of an infraction for the first offense and shall
5 be assessed a fine not to exceed **[two] five** hundred dollars and shall be guilty of
6 a class A misdemeanor and shall be assessed a fine of up to **[two] five** hundred
7 dollars per day, not to exceed a total of ten thousand dollars for subsequent
8 offenses. In case such guilty person is a corporation, association, institution or
9 society, the officers thereof who participate in such misdemeanor shall be subject
10 to the penalties provided by law.

11 2. If the department of health and senior services proposes to deny,
12 suspend, place on probation or revoke a license, the department of health and
13 senior services shall serve upon the applicant or licensee written notice of the
14 proposed action to be taken. The notice shall contain a statement of the type of
15 action proposed, the basis for it, the date the action will become effective, and a
16 statement that the applicant or licensee shall have thirty days to request in
17 writing a hearing before the administrative hearing commission and that such

18 request shall be made to the department of health and senior services. If no
19 written request for a hearing is received by the department of health and senior
20 services within thirty days of the delivery or mailing by certified mail of the
21 notice to the applicant or licensee, the proposed discipline shall take effect on the
22 thirty-first day after such delivery or mailing of the notice to the applicant or
23 licensee. If the applicant or licensee makes a written request for a hearing, the
24 department of health and senior services shall file a complaint with the
25 administrative hearing commission within ninety days of receipt of the request
26 for a hearing.

27 3. The department of health and senior services may issue letters of
28 censure or warning without formal notice or hearing. Additionally, the
29 department of health and senior services may place a licensee on probation
30 pursuant to chapter 621.

31 4. The department of health and senior services may suspend any license
32 simultaneously with the notice of the proposed action to be taken in subsection
33 2 of this section, if the department of health and senior services finds that there
34 is a threat of imminent bodily harm to the children in care. The notice of
35 suspension shall include the basis of the suspension and the appeal rights of the
36 licensee pursuant to this section. The licensee may appeal the decision to
37 suspend the license to the department of health and senior services. The appeal
38 shall be filed within ten days from the delivery or mailing by certified mail of the
39 notice of appeal. A hearing shall be conducted by the department of health and
40 senior services within ten days from the date the appeal is filed. The suspension
41 shall continue in effect until the conclusion of the proceedings, including review
42 thereof, unless sooner withdrawn by the department of health and senior services,
43 dissolved by a court of competent jurisdiction or stayed by the administrative
44 hearing commission. Any person aggrieved by a final decision of the department
45 made pursuant to this section shall be entitled to judicial review in accordance
46 with chapter 536.

47 5. In addition to initiating proceedings pursuant to subsection 1 of this
48 section, or in lieu thereof, the prosecuting attorney of the county where the
49 child-care facility is located may file suit for a preliminary and permanent order
50 overseeing or preventing the operation of a child-care facility for violating any
51 provision of sections 210.201 to 210.245. The order shall remain in force until
52 such a time as the court determines that the child-care facility is in substantial
53 compliance. If the prosecuting attorney refuses to act or fails to act after receipt

54 of notice from the department of health and senior services, the department of
55 health and senior services may request that the attorney general seek an
56 injunction of the operation of such child-care facility.

57 6. In cases of imminent bodily harm to children in the care of a child-care
58 facility, the department may file suit in the circuit court of the county in which
59 the child-care facility is located for injunctive relief, which may include removing
60 the children from the facility, overseeing the operation of the facility or closing
61 the facility.

62 **7. The department of health and senior services may immediately**
63 **close any illegally operating unlicensed child care facility upon**
64 **documentation of the illegal status of the facility or the finding of an**
65 **emergency based on the harm or imminent harm to the children**
66 **involved. The prosecuting attorney of the county where such illegal**
67 **child care facility is located may file suit for a permanent order**
68 **preventing the operation of such child care facility. The order shall**
69 **remain in effect until the court determines that the child care facility**
70 **is in compliance with all licensure requirements. Any person who**
71 **operates an illegal unlicensed child care facility is subject to the**
72 **penalties set forth in subsection 1 of this section. Any operator of a**
73 **facility closed under this provision that is later found to have been**
74 **legal shall have the right to exercise any rights and remedies which**
75 **may be available at law or in equity.**

✓

Copy