

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 457

AN ACT

To repeal section 210.201, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to Montessori schools, with an emergency clause.

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

Section A. Section 210.201, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 210.201, to read as follows:

210.201. As used in sections 210.201 to 210.257, the following terms mean:

(1) "Child", an individual who is under the age of seventeen;

(2) "Child care", care of a child away from his or her home for any part of the twenty-four-hour day for compensation or otherwise. "Child care" is a voluntary supplement to parental responsibility for the child's protection, development, and supervision;

(3) "Child-care facility" or "child care facility", a house or other place conducted or maintained by any person who advertises or holds himself or herself out as providing child care for any part of the twenty-four-hour day for compensation or otherwise if providing child care to more than:

(a) Six children; or

(b) Three children under two years of age;

(4) "Child care provider" or "provider", the person or persons licensed or required to be licensed under section 210.221 to establish, conduct, or maintain a child care facility;

(5) "Montessori school", a child care program that [subscribes to Maria Montessori's educational philosophy and that is accredited by the American Montessori Society or the Association Montessori Internationale] is either accredited by, actively seeking accreditation by, or maintains an active school membership with the American Montessori Society, the Association Montessori Internationale, the International Montessori Counsel, or the Montessori Educational Programs International;

(6) "Neighborhood youth development program", as described in section 210.278;

(7) "Nursery school", a program operated by a person or an organization with the primary function of providing an educational program for preschool-age children for no more than four hours per day per child;

(8) "Person", any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, association, agency, or an incorporated or unincorporated organization regardless of the name used;

(9) "Religious organization", a church, synagogue or mosque; an entity that has or would qualify for federal tax-exempt status as a nonprofit religious organization under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code; or an entity whose real estate on which the child-care facility is located is exempt from taxation because it is used for religious purposes;

(10) "School system", a program established primarily for education and that meets the following criteria:

(a) Provides education in at least the first to the sixth grade; and

(b) Provides evidence that the school system's records will be accepted by a public or private school for the transfer of any student;

(11) "Summer camp", a program operated from May to September by a person or organization with the primary function of providing a summer recreational program for children five years of age or older and providing no child care for children under five years of age in the same building or in the same outdoor play area.

Section B. Because of the need to preserve safe and adequate access to educational opportunities for Missouri children, section A of this act is deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace, and safety, and is hereby declared to be an emergency act within the meaning of the constitution, and section A of this act shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval.