

1 S.206

2 Introduced by Senator Lyons

3 Referred to Committee on Health and Welfare

4 Date: January 6, 2026

5 Subject: Human services; professional regulation; early childhood educators;
6 licensure

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
8 Office of Professional Regulation to license early childhood educators.

9 An act relating to licensure of early childhood educators by the Office of
10 Professional Regulation

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 ~~Sec. 1, 3 V.S.A. § 122 is amended to read:~~

13 § 122. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

14 The Office of Professional Regulation is created within the Office of the
15 Secretary of State. The Office shall have a director who shall be qualified by
16 education and professional experience to perform the duties of the position.

17 The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall be a classified
18 position with the Office of the Secretary of State. The following boards or
19 professions are attached to the Office of Professional Regulation:

20 ~~(1) Board of Architects~~

1 ~~(c) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as initial appointments.~~

2 ~~(d) Board members shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.~~

3 § 6212. BOARD PROCEDURES

4 (a) Annually, the Board shall meet to elect a chair, vice chair, and a
5 secretary.

6 (b) Meetings shall be warned and conducted in accordance with 1 V.S.A.
7 chapter 5.

8 (c) A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

9 (d) All business shall be transacted by a majority vote of the members
10 present and voting, unless otherwise provided by statute.

11 § 6213. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

12 (a) The Board shall:

13 (1) adopt rules, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, that are necessary for
14 the performance of its duties in accordance with this chapter, including
15 activities that must be completed by an applicant in order to fulfill the
16 educational and experiential requirements established by this chapter;

17 (2) provide general information to applicants for licensure as early
18 childhood educators;

19 (3) explain appeal procedures to licensees and applicants and complaint
20 procedures to the public, and

1 ~~(4) use the administrative and legal services provided by the Office of~~
2 Professional Regulation under 3 V.S.A. chapter 5.

3 (b) The Board may conduct hearings and exercise its authority as provided
4 in 3 V.S.A. chapter 5.

5 Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. chapter 111 is amended to read:

6 CHAPTER 111. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN PROGRAMS

7 REGULATED BY THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

8 Subchapter 1. General Provisions

9 § 6201. DEFINITIONS

10 As used in this chapter:

11 (1) "Board" means the Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators.

12 (2) "Early childhood educator" means an individual providing care and
13 educational instruction to children from birth through eight years of age in a
14 program regulated by the Child Development Division, including:

15 (A) planning and implementing intentional, developmentally
16 appropriate learning experiences that promote the physical health and social,
17 emotional, linguistic, and cognitive growth of children;

18 (B) establishing and maintaining a safe, caring, inclusive, and
19 healthy learning environment;

20 (C) observing, documenting, and assessing children's learning and
21 development,

1 ~~(D) developing reciprocal, culturally responsive relationships with~~
2 ~~families and communities; and~~

3 ~~(E) engaging in reflective practice and continuous learning.~~

4 ~~(3) “Early Childhood Educator I” means an individual who practices~~
5 ~~early childhood education as an assistant educator in a program under the~~
6 ~~supervision of Early Childhood Educators II or III or a teacher who is exempt~~
7 ~~from this chapter and licensed by the Agency of Education under 16 V.S.A.~~
8 ~~chapter 51 with endorsements in early childhood education, early childhood~~
9 ~~special education, or elementary education.~~

10 ~~(4) “Early Childhood Educator II” means an individual who practices~~
11 ~~early childhood education as the lead or primary educator in a program,~~
12 ~~supervises the practice of individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator~~
13 ~~I, and receives guidance from individuals licensed as an Early Childhood~~
14 ~~Educator III.~~

15 ~~(5) “Early Childhood Educator III” means an individual who practices~~
16 ~~early childhood education as the lead or primary educator in a program,~~
17 ~~supervises the practice of individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator~~
18 ~~I, and provides guidance to individuals licensed as an Early Childhood~~
19 ~~Educator II.~~

20 ~~(6) “Family child care provider” means an individual who provides~~
21 ~~developmentally appropriate care, education, protection, and supervision of~~

1 ~~children from birth through eight years of age and is authorized by the Child~~
2 Development Division to operate a family child care home as defined in 33
3 V.S.A. § 3511.

4 (7) “Guidance” means direct or indirect consultative support in which
5 an Early Childhood Educator III provides feedback to an Early Childhood
6 Educator II.

7 (8) “Program” or “program regulated by the Child Development
8 Division” means a program or facility approved by the Department for
9 Children and Families’ Child Development Division as a licensed or registered
10 family child care home or a licensed center-based child care and preschool
11 program.

12 (9) “Supervision” means on-site, direct oversight in which an Early
13 Childhood Educator II or III observes the practice of an Early Childhood
14 Educator I and provides feedback, support, and direction to an Early
15 Childhood Educator I.

16 § 6202. PROHIBITIONS

17 (a) An individual shall not hold themselves out as an early childhood
18 educator in this State unless the individual is licensed under this chapter or
19 exempt from this chapter pursuant to section 6203 of this chapter.

20 (b) An individual shall not use in connection with the individual’s name
21 any letters, words, or insignia indicating that the individual is an early

1 ~~childhood educator unless the individual is licensed under this chapter or~~
2 ~~exempt from this chapter pursuant to section 6203 of this chapter.~~

3 § 6203. EXEMPTIONS

4 (a) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the following persons
5 acting within the scope of their respective professional practices:

6 (1) a teacher actively licensed under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51 by the
7 Agency of Education with endorsements in early childhood education, an early
8 childhood special education, or an elementary education; and

9 (2) an individual who provides care in an afterschool child care program
10 that is regulated by the Child Development Division or any other child care
11 program that is exempt from regulation by the Child Development Division.

12 (b) This chapter shall not be construed to alter or amend the requirements
13 of publicly funded prekindergarten education programs operated in accordance
14 with 16 V.S.A. § 829.

15 (c) This chapter shall not be construed to limit or restrict in any manner the
16 right of a practitioner of another profession or occupation from carrying on in
17 the usual manner any of the functions incidental to that profession or
18 occupation.

19 Subchapter 2. Board of Early Childhood Educators

20 § 6211. CREATION OF BOARD

21

Subchapter 3. Licensure Requirements

§ 6221. ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS

(a) To be eligible for licensure under this chapter, an applicant shall have attained the age of majority; achieved a high school diploma, a General Education Development (GED) certificate, or an approved equivalent credential; and completed field experience in early childhood education as required by rule.

(b) An applicant shall meet the following educational requirements for each of the following license types:

(1) Early Childhood Educator I shall have received a certificate from an approved credential program in early childhood education requiring a minimum of 120 hours of training and instruction.

(2) Early Childhood Educator II shall have received an associate's degree program in:

(A) early childhood education or a related field requiring a minimum of 60 college credits; or

(B) any unrelated field and a minimum of 21 approved college credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified in rule.

(3) Early Childhood Educator III shall have received a bachelor's degree from an approved program in:

1 ~~(A) early childhood education or a related field requiring a minimum~~
2 ~~of 20 college credits; or~~

3 ~~(B) any unrelated field and a minimum of 21 approved college~~
4 ~~credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified in~~
5 ~~rule.~~

6 ~~(4) A Family Child Care Provider shall be qualified for licensure if~~
7 ~~authorized by the Child Development Division to operate a family child care~~
8 ~~home and is in good standing with the Division as of January 1, 2029. The~~
9 ~~Board shall not accept Family Child Care Provider applications after January~~
10 ~~1, 2029.~~

11 ~~(c) Approved educational programs may offer college credit based upon an~~
12 ~~assessment of the individual's competencies acquired through experience~~
13 ~~working in the profession.~~

14 ~~(d) In addition to the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this~~
15 ~~section, applicants shall pass any examination that may be required by rule.~~

16 ~~§ 6222. LICENSE RENEWAL~~

17 ~~(a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon application and~~
18 ~~payment of the required fee. Failure to comply with the provisions of this~~
19 ~~section shall result in suspension of all privileges granted by the license~~
20 ~~beginning on the expiration date of the license. A license that has lapsed shall~~
21 ~~be reinstated upon payment of the biennial renewal fee and the late renewal~~

1 ~~penalty pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 127, except a Family Child Care Provider~~

2 license shall not be renewed after a lapse of two or more years.

3 (b) The Board may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 necessary
4 for the protection of the public to assure the Board that an applicant whose
5 license has lapsed for more than five years is professionally qualified before
6 reinstatement may occur. Conditions imposed under this subsection shall be in
7 addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

8 (c) In addition to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, an
9 applicant for renewal shall have satisfactorily completed continuing education
10 as required by the Board. For purposes of this subsection, the Board may
11 require, by rule, not more than 24 hours of approved continuing education as a
12 condition of renewal.

13 § 6223. FEES

14 Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following
15 fees:

16 (1) Early Childhood Educator I:

17 (A) Application for initial license, \$125.00.

18 (B) Biennial renewal, \$225.00.

19 (2) Early Childhood Educator II:

20 (A) Application for initial license, \$175.00.

21 (B) Biennial renewal, \$250.00.

1 (3) Early Childhood Educator III:

2 (A) Application for initial license, \$225.00.

3 (B) Biennial renewal, \$275.00.

4 (4) Family Child Care Provider:

5 (A) Application for initial license, \$175.00.

6 (B) Biennial renewal, \$250.00.

7 § 6224. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

8 As used in this chapter, “unprofessional conduct” means:

9 (1) conduct prohibited by this section, by 3 V.S.A. § 129a, or by other
10 statutes relating to early childhood education, whether that conduct is by a
11 licensee, an applicant, or an individual who later becomes an applicant;

12 (2) conduct that results in a licensee, applicant, or an individual who
13 later becomes an applicant being placed on the Child Protection Registry
14 pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 49; or

15 (3) conduct that is not in accordance with the professional standards and
16 competencies for Early Childhood Educators published by the National
17 Association for the Education of Young Children.

18 § 6225. VARIANCES; TRANSITIONAL LICENSURE

19 (a) The Board shall issue a transitional Early Childhood Educator II or III
20 license to a teacher or director of a program who does not meet the educational
21 and experiential licensure in this chapter. Transitional licenses shall be valid

1 ~~for a two-year period and shall be renewed by the Board for an otherwise~~
2 qualified applicant for an additional two-year period with satisfactory
3 supporting documentation of the individual's ongoing work to obtain the
4 required educational and experiential qualifications for licensure under this
5 chapter.

6 (b) At the conclusion of three two-year transitional licensure periods, the
7 Board, at its discretion, may issue one final two-year transitional license for an
8 otherwise qualified applicant if the licensee can demonstrate extenuating
9 circumstances for not having attained the educational and experiential
10 requirements in this chapter and ongoing work to attain these requirements.

11 § 6226. DISCLOSURE BY LICENSEES

12 An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter shall post and
13 provide to current and prospective families the following information:

14 (1) all available license types regulated by the Office of Professional
15 Regulation pursuant to this chapter;

16 (2) a description of the Office of Professional Regulation's regulatory
17 authority over licensees in programs regulated by the Child Development
18 Division and how to make complaints;

19 (3) a description of the Agency of Education's regulatory authority over
20 teachers providing prekindergarten services pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 829 and
21 how to make complaints, and

1 ~~(4) a description of the Child Development Division's regulatory~~
2 ~~authority over regulated child care programs and how to make complaints.~~

3 Sec. 4. REPEAL; TRANSITIONAL LICENSE

4 26 V.S.A. § 6225 (variances; transitional licensure) is repealed on July 1,
5 2036.

6 Sec. 5. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; LICENSURE OF
7 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN PROGRAMS
8 REGULATED BY THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION;
9 APPROPRIATION

10 (a)(1) The establishment of the following new permanent positions is
11 authorized in the Office of Professional Regulation in fiscal year 2027:

12 (A) one full-time, classified executive officer for the Vermont Board
13 of Early Childhood Educators; and

14 (B) one full-time, exempt staff attorney.

15 (2) In fiscal year 2027, the amount of \$262,000.00 is appropriated from
16 the General Fund to the Office of the Professional Regulation to be used for
17 the licensure of early childhood educators in accordance with this act.

18 (b)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish the following
19 three new permanent positions in the Office of Professional Responsibility in
20 fiscal year 2028.

1 ~~(A) one full-time, classified licensing staff;~~

2 ~~(B) one full-time, classified enforcement staff; and~~

3 ~~(C) one full-time, classified administrative staff.~~

4 ~~(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate \$628,867.00~~
5 ~~from the General Fund in fiscal year 2028 to the Office of Professional~~
6 ~~Regulation to be used for the licensure of early childhood educators in~~
7 ~~accordance with this act.~~

8 ~~(c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that in fiscal year 2028,~~
9 ~~\$1,400,000.00 be distributed from the Child Care Financial Assistance~~
10 ~~Program to the Office of Professional Regulation for the initial licensure~~
11 ~~application fees and licensure renewal fees for early childhood educators~~
12 ~~practicing in programs regulated by the Child Development Division pursuant~~
13 ~~to 26 V.S.A. chapter 111.~~

14 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

15 ~~(a) This section, Sec. 1 (Office of Professional Regulation), Sec. 2~~
16 ~~(Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators), and Sec. 5 (Office of~~
17 ~~Professional Regulation; licensure of early childhood educators; appropriation)~~
18 ~~shall take effect on July 1, 2026.~~

19 ~~(b) Sec. 3 (early childhood educators) and Sec. 4 (repeal; transitional~~
20 ~~license) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.~~

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 122 is amended to read:

§ 122. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

The Office of Professional Regulation is created within the Office of the Secretary of State. The Office shall have a director who shall be qualified by education and professional experience to perform the duties of the position. The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall be a classified position with the Office of the Secretary of State. The following boards or professions are attached to the Office of Professional Regulation:

(1) Board of Architects

** * **

(55) Early Childhood Educators

Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. chapter 111 is added to read:

*CHAPTER 111. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN PROGRAMS
REGULATED BY THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION*

§ 6211. CREATION OF BOARD

(a) The Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators is created.

(b) The Board shall consist of nine members appointed for five-year terms by the Governor pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §§ 129b and 2004 as follows: two public members; two each of individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator I, an Early Childhood Educator II, and an Early Childhood Educator III; and one Family Child Care Provider. All members shall be Vermont residents. The members who are early childhood educators shall have been in active practice in Vermont for not less than the preceding three years and shall be in active practice during their incumbency. The public members shall be individuals who have no financial interest personally or through a spouse, parent, child, or sibling in the activities regulated under this chapter, other than as a consumer or a possible consumer of its services. Appointments shall be made without regard to political affiliation and on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability.

(c) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as initial appointments.

(d) Board members shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

§ 6212. BOARD PROCEDURES

(a) Annually, the Board shall meet to elect a chair, vice chair, and a secretary.

(b) Meetings shall be warned and conducted in accordance with 1 V.S.A. chapter 5.

(c) A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

(d) All business shall be transacted by a majority vote of the members present and voting, unless otherwise provided by statute.

§ 6213. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

(a) The Board shall:

(1) adopt rules, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, that are necessary for the performance of its duties in accordance with this chapter, including activities that must be completed by an applicant in order to fulfill the educational and experiential requirements established by this chapter;

(2) provide general information to applicants for licensure as early childhood educators;

(3) explain appeal procedures to licensees and applicants and complaint procedures to the public; and

(4) use the administrative and legal services provided by the Office of Professional Regulation under 3 V.S.A. chapter 5.

(b) The Board may conduct hearings and exercise its authority as provided in 3 V.S.A. chapter 5.

Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. chapter 111 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 111. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN PROGRAMS
REGULATED BY THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 6201. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators.

(2) "Early childhood educator" means an individual providing care and educational instruction to children from birth through eight years of age in a program regulated by the Child Development Division, including:

(A) planning and implementing intentional, developmentally appropriate learning experiences that promote the physical health and social, emotional, linguistic, and cognitive growth of children;

(B) establishing and maintaining a safe, caring, inclusive, and healthy learning environment;

(C) observing, documenting, and assessing children's learning and development;

(D) developing reciprocal, culturally responsive relationships with families and communities; and

(E) engaging in reflective practice and continuous learning.

(3) “Early Childhood Educator I” means an individual who practices early childhood education as an assistant educator in a program under the supervision of Early Childhood Educators II or III or a teacher who is exempt from this chapter and licensed by the Agency of Education under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51 with endorsements in early childhood education, early childhood special education, or elementary education.

(4) “Early Childhood Educator II” means an individual who practices early childhood education as the lead or primary educator in a program, supervises the practice of individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator I, and receives guidance from individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator III.

(5) “Early Childhood Educator III” means an individual who practices early childhood education as the lead or primary educator in a program, supervises the practice of individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator I, and provides guidance to individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator II.

(6) “Family child care provider” means an individual who provides developmentally appropriate care, education, protection, and supervision of children from birth through eight years of age and is authorized by the Child Development Division to operate a family child care home as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511.

(7) “Guidance” means direct or indirect consultative support in which an Early Childhood Educator III provides feedback to an Early Childhood Educator II.

(8) “Program” or “program regulated by the Child Development Division” means a program or facility approved by the Department for Children and Families’ Child Development Division as a licensed or registered family child care home or a licensed center-based child care and preschool program and is not operated by a public school.

(9) “Supervision” means on-site, direct oversight in which an Early Childhood Educator II or III observes the practice of an Early Childhood Educator I and provides feedback, support, and direction to an Early Childhood Educator I.

§ 6202. PROHIBITIONS

(a) An individual shall not hold themselves out as an early childhood educator in this State unless the individual is licensed under this chapter or exempt from this chapter pursuant to section 6203 of this chapter.

(b) An individual shall not use in connection with the individual's name any letters, words, or insignia indicating that the individual is an early childhood educator unless the individual is licensed under this chapter or exempt from this chapter pursuant to section 6203 of this chapter.

§ 6203. EXEMPTIONS

(a) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the following persons acting within the scope of their respective professional practices:

(1) a teacher actively licensed under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51 by the Agency of Education with endorsements in early childhood education, an early childhood special education, or an elementary education;

(2) an individual who provides care in an afterschool child care program that is regulated by the Child Development Division or any other child care program that is exempt from regulation by the Child Development Division; and

(3) an individual who works exclusively in a public school.

(b) This chapter shall not be construed to alter or amend the requirements of publicly funded prekindergarten education programs operated in accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 829.

(c) This chapter shall not be construed to limit or restrict in any manner the right of a practitioner of another profession or occupation from carrying on in the usual manner any of the functions incidental to that profession or occupation.

Subchapter 2. Board of Early Childhood Educators

§ 6211. CREATION OF BOARD

* * *

Subchapter 3. Licensure Requirements

§ 6221. ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS

(a) To be eligible for licensure under this chapter, an applicant shall have attained the age of majority; achieved a high school diploma, a General Education Development (GED) certificate, or an approved equivalent credential; and completed field experience in early childhood education as required by rule.

(b) An applicant shall meet the following educational requirements for each of the following license types:

(1) Early Childhood Educator I shall have received a certificate from an approved credential program in early childhood education requiring a minimum of 120 hours of training and instruction.

(2) Early Childhood Educator II shall have received an associate's degree program in:

(A) early childhood education or a related field requiring a minimum of 60 college credits; or

(B) any unrelated field and a minimum of 21 approved college credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified in rule.

(3) Early Childhood Educator III shall have received a bachelor's degree from an approved program in:

(A) early childhood education or a related field requiring a minimum of 120 college credits; or

(B) any unrelated field and a minimum of 21 approved college credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified in rule.

(4) A Family Child Care Provider shall be qualified for licensure if authorized by the Child Development Division to operate a family child care home and is in good standing with the Division as of January 1, 2029. The Board shall not accept Family Child Care Provider applications after January 1, 2029.

(c) Approved educational programs may offer college credit based upon an assessment of the individual's competencies acquired through experience working in the profession.

(d) In addition to the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, applicants shall pass any examination that may be required by rule.

§ 6222. LICENSE RENEWAL

(a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon application and payment of the required fee. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall result in suspension of all privileges granted by the license beginning on the expiration date of the license. A license that has lapsed shall be reinstated upon payment of the biennial renewal fee and the late renewal penalty pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 127, except a Family Child Care Provider license shall not be renewed after a lapse of two or more years.

(b) The Board may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 necessary for the protection of the public to assure the Board that an applicant whose license has lapsed for more than five years is professionally qualified before reinstatement may occur. Conditions imposed under this subsection shall be in addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) In addition to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, an applicant for renewal shall have satisfactorily completed continuing education as required by the Board. For purposes of this subsection, the Board may require, by rule, not more than 24 hours of approved continuing education as a condition of renewal.

§ 6223. FEES

Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:

- (1) Early Childhood Educator I:
 - (A) Application for initial license, \$125.00.
 - (B) Biennial renewal, \$225.00.
- (2) Early Childhood Educator II:
 - (A) Application for initial license, \$175.00.
 - (B) Biennial renewal, \$250.00.
- (3) Early Childhood Educator III:
 - (A) Application for initial license, \$225.00.
 - (B) Biennial renewal, \$275.00.
- (4) Family Child Care Provider:
 - (A) Application for initial license, \$175.00.
 - (B) Biennial renewal, \$250.00.

§ 6224. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

As used in this chapter, “unprofessional conduct” means:

- (1) conduct prohibited by this section, by 3 V.S.A. § 129a, or by other statutes relating to early childhood education, whether that conduct is by a licensee, an applicant, or an individual who later becomes an applicant;
- (2) conduct that results in a licensee, applicant, or an individual who later becomes an applicant being placed on the Child Protection Registry pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 49; or

(3) conduct that is not in accordance with the professional standards and competencies for Early Childhood Educators published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

§ 6225. VARIANCES

(a)(1) The Board shall issue a transitional Early Childhood Educator II or III license to a teacher or director of a program who does not meet the educational and experiential licensure in this chapter. Transitional licenses shall be valid for a two-year period and shall be renewed by the Board for an otherwise qualified applicant for an additional two-year period with satisfactory supporting documentation of the individual's ongoing work to obtain the required educational and experiential qualifications for licensure under this chapter.

(2) At the conclusion of three two-year transitional licensure periods, the Board, at its discretion, may issue one final two-year transitional license for an otherwise qualified applicant if the licensee can demonstrate extenuating circumstances for not having attained the educational and experiential requirements in this chapter and ongoing work to attain these requirements.

(b) In addition to the transitional licensure available pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Board shall also issue an Early Childhood Educator II license for individuals who have completed the eligibility requirements set forth in subsections 6221(a) and (d) of this chapter and completed one of the following:

(1) 21 college credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified by the Board in rule; or

(2) prior experiential learning that is assessed by an appropriately accredited institution of higher learning to be the equivalent of 21 college credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified by the Board in rule.

§ 6226. DISCLOSURE BY LICENSEES

An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter shall post and provide to current and prospective families the following information:

(1) all available license types regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation pursuant to this chapter;

(2) a description of the Office of Professional Regulation's regulatory authority over licensees in programs regulated by the Child Development Division and how to make complaints;

(3) a description of the Agency of Education's regulatory authority over teachers providing prekindergarten services pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 829 and how to make complaints; and

(4) a description of the Child Development Division's regulatory authority over regulated child care programs and how to make complaints.

~~Sec. 4. REPEAL, VARIANCES~~

~~26 V.S.A. § 6225 (variances) is repealed on July 1, 2026.~~

Sec. 4. 26 V.S.A. § 6225 is amended to read:

§ 6225. VARIANCES

(a)(1) The Board shall issue a transitional Early Childhood Educator II or III license to a teacher or director of a program who does not meet the educational and experiential licensure in this chapter. Transitional licenses issued under this subsection shall be valid for a two-year period and shall be renewed by the Board for an otherwise qualified applicant for an additional two-year period with satisfactory supporting documentation of the individual's ongoing work to obtain the required educational and experiential qualifications for licensure under this chapter.

* * *

(c) The Board shall issue a transitional Early Childhood Educator II license to a provider operating a family child care home who does not meet the educational and experiential licensure requirements of an Early Childhood Educator II but does meet the educational and experiential license requirements of an Early Childhood Educator I pursuant to this chapter. Transitional licenses under this subsection shall be valid for a two-year period, and renewable for two additional two-year periods, while the licensee completes ongoing work to obtain the required educational and experiential qualifications for Early Childhood II licensure under this chapter.

Sec. 4a. 26 V.S.A. § 6225 is amended to read:

§ 6225. VARIANCES

~~*(a)(1) The Board shall issue a transitional Early Childhood Educator II or III license to a teacher or director of a program who does not meet the educational and experiential licensure in this chapter. Transitional licenses issued under this subsection shall be valid for a two-year period and shall be renewed by the Board for an otherwise qualified applicant for an additional two-year period with satisfactory supporting documentation of the individual's ongoing work to obtain the required educational and experiential qualifications for licensure under this chapter.*~~

~~(2) At the conclusion of three two-year transitional licensure periods, the Board, at its discretion, may issue one final two-year transitional license for an otherwise qualified applicant if the licensee can demonstrate extenuating circumstances for not having attained the educational and experiential requirements in this chapter and ongoing work to attain these requirements.~~

~~(b) In addition to the transitional licensure available pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Board shall also issue an Early Childhood Educator II license for individuals who have completed the eligibility requirements set forth in subsections 6221(a) and (d) of this chapter and completed one of the following:~~

~~(1) 21 college credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified by the Board in rule; or~~

~~(2) prior experiential learning that is assessed by an appropriately accredited institution of higher learning to be the equivalent of 21 college credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified by the Board in rule.~~

~~(e) The Board shall issue a transitional Early Childhood Educator II license to a provider operating a family child care home who does not meet the educational and experiential licensure requirements of an Early Childhood Educator II but does meet the educational and experiential license requirements of an Early Childhood Educator I pursuant to this chapter. Transitional licenses under this subsection shall be valid for a two-year period, and renewable for two additional two-year periods, while the licensee completes ongoing work to obtain the required educational and experiential qualifications for Early Childhood II licensure under this chapter.~~

~~Sec. 5. REPORT, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR LICENSURE~~

~~On or before November 1, 2031, the Office of Professional Regulation shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Government Operations and Military Affairs and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Health and Welfare regarding the implementation of 26 V.S.A. chapter III, including:~~

~~(1) the number of licensees by license type;~~

~~(2) the State resources necessary to implement the chapter;~~

~~(3) the number and nature of any complaints or enforcement actions against a licensee;~~

~~(4) the qualifications required for each license type; and~~

~~(5) any other issues the Office deems appropriate.~~

Sec. 5. REPORT; EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR LICENSURE

On or before November 1, 2031, the Office of Professional Regulation, in consultation with the Department for Children and Families' Child Development Division, shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Government Operations and Military Affairs and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Health and Welfare regarding the implementation of 26 V.S.A. chapter 111, including:

(1) the number of licensees by license type;

(2) the State resources necessary to implement the chapter;

(3) the number and nature of any complaints or enforcement actions against a licensee;

(4) the qualifications required for each license type;

(5) any changes in the number of registered and licensed family child care homes since the enactment of 26 V.S.A. chapter 111;

(6) recommendations to encourage the opening of additional family child care homes; and

(7) any other issues the Office deems appropriate.

Sec. 6. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; LICENSURE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN PROGRAMS REGULATED BY THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION; APPROPRIATION; POSITIONS

(a) The establishment of the following new permanent positions is authorized in the Office of Professional Regulation in fiscal year 2027:

(1) one full-time, classified executive officer for the Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators; and

(2) one full-time, exempt staff attorney.

(b) In fiscal year 2027, the amount of \$262,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of Professional Regulation to be used for the licensure of early childhood educators in accordance with this act.

Sec. 6a. CONTINGENCY OF FUNDING

The duty to implement Sec. 6 of this act, Office of Professional Regulation; licensure of early childhood educators in program regulated by the Child Development Division; appropriation; positions, is contingent upon an appropriation of funds in fiscal year 2027 from the General Fund to the Office

of Professional Regulation for the specific purposes described in Sec. 6 of this act.

~~Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES~~

~~(a) *This section, Sec. 1 (Office of Professional Regulation), Sec. 2 (Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators), Sec. 5 (report; early childhood educator licensure), and Sec. 6 (Office of Professional Regulation; licensure of early childhood educators; appropriation; positions) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.*~~

~~(b) *Sec. 3 (early childhood educators) and Sec. 4 (repeal; variances) shall take effect on July 1, 2028.*~~

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section, Sec. 1 (Office of Professional Regulation), Sec. 2 (Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators), Sec. 5 (report; early childhood educator licensure), and Sec. 6 (Office of Professional Regulation; licensure of early childhood educators; appropriation; positions), Sec. 6a (contingency of funding) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(b) Sec. 3 (early childhood educators) shall take effect on July 1, 2028.

(c) Sec. 4 (26 V.S.A. § 6225) shall take effect on January 1, 2029.

(d) Sec. 4a (26 V.S.A. § 6225) shall take effect on July 1, 2036.