



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB3268

Introduced 2/18/2025, by Rep. Harry Benton

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

225 ILCS 10/6.5 new

Amends the Child Care Act of 1969. Provides that an early childhood teacher must meet one of the following qualifications: (1) complete 60 semester hours from an accredited college or university with either 6 semester hours in early childhood education or complete the Gateways Early Childhood Education Credential Level 1 training; (2) complete 1,560 clock hours of child development experience and 30 semester hours from an accredited college or university with either 6 semester hours in early childhood education or Gateways Early Childhood Education Credential Level 1 training; (3) complete 2,080 clock hours of child development experience as a teacher assistant in a day care center, complete the Gateways Early Childhood Education Credential Level 1 training, and provide proof of enrollment from an accredited college or university until 30 semester hours are attained or proof of enrollment in an early childhood teacher credentialing program, either of which must be completed in no more than 5 years from the date of initial enrollment; or (4) complete a credentialing program approved by the Department of Children and Family Services in accordance with administrative rule.

LRB104 10689 RTM 20768 b

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Child Care Act of 1969 is amended by adding
5 Section 6.5 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 10/6.5 new)

7 Sec. 6.5. Qualifications for early childhood teachers. An
8 early childhood teacher must meet one of the following
9 qualifications:

10 (1) complete 60 semester hours from an accredited
11 college or university with either 6 semester hours in
12 early childhood education or complete the Gateways Early
13 Childhood Education Credential Level 1 training;

14 (2) complete 1,560 clock hours of child development
15 experience and 30 semester hours from an accredited
16 college or university with either 6 semester hours in
17 early childhood education or Gateways Early Childhood
18 Education Credential Level 1 training;

19 (3) complete 2,080 clock hours of child development
20 experience as a teacher assistant in a day care center,
21 complete the Gateways Early Childhood Education Credential
22 Level 1 training, and provide proof of enrollment from an
23 accredited college or university until 30 semester hours

1 are attained or proof of enrollment in an early childhood
2 teacher credentialing program, either of which must be
3 completed in no more than 5 years from the date of initial
4 enrollment; or

5 (4) complete a credentialing program approved by the
6 Department in accordance with 89 Ill. Adm. Code 407
7 Appendix G.