



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2961

Introduced 1/27/2026, by Sen. Meg Loughran Cappel

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

225 ILCS 10/6.5 new

Amends the Child Care Act of 1969. Provides that a licensed day care center may hire an individual who is in the process of completing the educational requirements set forth in administrative rules as an Interim Conditional Child Care Director for a period of 12 months. Requires the hired individual to provide documentation that shows that the individual is enrolled in courses that meet the requirements set forth in administrative rules. Provides that the individual shall be enrolled in an accredited college or university. Provides that during the 12-month employment period, an Interim Conditional Child Care Director with specified qualifications is exempt from the educational requirements set forth in administrative rules.

LRB104 16992 AAS 30406 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 Interim Conditional Child
8 Care Directors.

9 (a) A licensed day care center may hire an individual who
10 is in the process of completing the educational requirements
11 set forth in 89 Ill. Adm. Code 407.130(e)(2) as an Interim
12 Conditional Child Care Director for a period of 12 months. An
13 individual hired pursuant to this Section shall provide
14 documentation that shows that the individual is enrolled in
15 courses at an accredited college or university that meet the
16 requirements set forth in 89 Ill. Adm. Code 407.130(e)(2).

17 (b) During the 12-month employment period, an Interim
18 Conditional Child Care Director with any of the following
19 qualifications is exempt from the educational requirements set
20 forth in 89 Ill. Adm. Code 407.130(e)(2):

21 (1) At least 2 years or 3,120 clock hours as an early
22 childhood teacher at the licensed day care center where
23 the individual will serve as an Interim Conditional Child

1 Care Director, at least 64 semester hours or 96 quarter
2 hours of credits from an accredited college or university
3 in any discipline, with a minimum of 15 semester hours or
4 22.5 quarter hours in courses related to early childhood
5 education, child development, or early childhood special
6 education, and (i) a Gateways to Opportunity Level I
7 Illinois Director Credential, (ii) 3 semester hours or 4.5
8 quarter hours of credits from an accredited college or
9 university in child care administration, leadership, or
10 management, or (iii) 3 points of credential-approved
11 training in child care administration, leadership, or
12 management. A person who is exempt under this paragraph
13 (1) shall obtain a total of at least 21 semester hours or
14 31.5 quarter hours in courses related to early childhood
15 education, child development, or early childhood special
16 education by the end of the prescribed 12-month period.

17 (2) At least 2 years or 3,120 clock hours as an early
18 childhood teacher at the licensed day care center where
19 the individual will serve as an Interim Conditional Child
20 Care Director and at least 64 semester hours or 96 quarter
21 hours of credits from an accredited college or university
22 in any discipline, with a minimum of 21 semester hours or
23 31.5 quarter hours in courses related to early childhood
24 education, child development, or early childhood special
25 education and without (i) a Gateways to Opportunity Level
26 I Illinois Director Credential, (ii) 3 semester hours or

1 4.5 quarter hours of credits from an accredited college or
2 university in child care administration, leadership, or
3 management, or (iii) 3 points of credential-approved
4 training in child care administration, leadership, or
5 management. A person who is exempt under this paragraph
6 (2) shall obtain the Gateways to Opportunity Level I
7 Illinois Director Credential, semester or quarter hours,
8 or points of training during the prescribed 12-month
9 period.