

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 604
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/11/21

Short Title: Optional Courtesy Safety Call/Child Care.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 20, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT FOR CHILD CARE FACILITIES TO HAVE THE OPTION OF CONDUCTING
3 COURTESY MORNING SAFETY CALLS FOR ABSENT CHILDREN TO ENSURE
4 CHILD SAFETY.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. Article 7 of Chapter 110 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
7 a new section to read:

8 "**§ 110-102.1B. Optional courtesy morning safety call.**

9 (a) To ensure child safety, as well as reduce the number of child vehicular heat stroke
10 deaths, it is recommended that a child care facility, as defined in G.S. 110-86, have the option to
11 conduct a courtesy morning safety call to the parent or guardian of a child who is 5 years of age
12 or younger and enrolled in the child care facility upon determining the child's absence when the
13 parent or guardian has not provided prior notice of the child's absence to the facility. The child
14 care facility may place the optional courtesy morning safety call no later than 30 minutes after
15 the anticipated time the child should have arrived at the child care facility. If the optional courtesy
16 morning safety call is made, the child care facility shall notify the parent or guardian of the child
17 by any method of communication feasible for the facility to implement, including, but not limited
18 to, a phone call, automated message by phone, text message, or email. In accordance with this
19 section, each child care facility shall do the following:

20 (1) Ensure the parents or guardians of children enrolled in the facility are
21 informed of the optional courtesy morning safety call process and the method
22 by which the notifications shall be delivered if their child is absent.

23 (2) Maintain a log with the method by which the facility communicated the child's
24 absence to the parent or guardian and the date and time of the communication
25 if the optional courtesy morning safety call is made.

26 (b) No child care facility shall be held criminally or civilly liable for failure to conduct
27 the optional courtesy morning safety call as set forth in subsection (a) of this section."

28 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

