

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021**

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**SENATE BILL 570  
Second Edition Engrossed 4/27/21**

Short Title: Hold Harmless Star Ratings/ERS Assess. Resume. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Krawiec, Burgin, and Perry (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 7, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO HOLD HARMLESS CERTAIN FACILITIES WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
3 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES RESUMES ENVIRONMENTAL RATING SCALE  
4 (ERS) (STAR RATING) ASSESSMENTS FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE FACILITIES,  
5 TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN OTHER FLEXIBILITIES WHEN THE ERS  
6 ASSESSMENTS RESUME, AND TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF CHILD  
7 DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY EDUCATION TO REPORT ON SPECIFIED CRITERIA.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, when the  
10 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education  
11 (Division), resumes environmental rating scale (ERS) (star rating) assessments, the Division shall  
12 not require a licensed child care facility to undergo an ERS assessment if conducting the  
13 assessment would cause the child care facility to lose a star rating due to (i) the facility's loss in  
14 educators who enabled the facility to meet the star-rating requirements and (ii) its inability to  
15 replace those educators, within a reasonable period of time, with individuals having similar levels  
16 of education.

17 **SECTION 2.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, when ERS  
18 assessments resume and the Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division) is  
19 awarding quality rating improvement system (QRIS) "education points" to a licensed child care  
20 facility toward its star rating, if the percentage of lead teachers in the program required to meet  
21 the "rated licensed education requirements" criteria is set at seventy-five percent (75%) for the  
22 program to earn those "education points" toward the facility's star rating, the Division shall lower  
23 the seventy-five percent (75%) threshold to fifty percent (50%) of lead teachers through June 30,  
24 2023.

25 **SECTION 2.5.** The Division of Child Development and Early Education shall  
26 submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by  
27 March 30, 2023, and the report shall include the following:

- 28 (1) Number of new high school Early Childhood Career and Technical Pathways  
29 programs across the state between June 30, 2021, and January 31, 2023.  
30 (2) New community college and university courses that award college credit  
31 towards a degree in early childhood based on work experience between June  
32 30, 2021, and January 31, 2023.  
33 (3) New community college and university courses that allow college credits for  
34 taking online health, safety, and nutrition training modules between June 30,  
35 2021, and January 31, 2023.



- 1 (4) Number of enrollees in the Early Childhood and Infant-Toddler Certificate  
2 Programs, number of graduates from the programs with certificates, and the  
3 increase in the number of enrollees and graduates from the programs between  
4 June 30, 2021, and January 31, 2023.
- 5 (5) Number of early childhood educators using T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships to pay  
6 for college tuition and the increase in the number of early childhood educators  
7 using T.E.A.C.H. scholarships to pay for college tuition between June 30,  
8 2021, and January 31, 2023.
- 9 (6) Availability of WAGE\$ salary supplement program by county, the number of  
10 early childhood educators working toward degrees in early childhood  
11 education who received salary supplements from WAGE\$, and the increase  
12 in the number of early childhood educators receiving WAGE\$ salary  
13 supplements between June 30, 2021, and January 31, 2023.
- 14 (7) The number and percentage increase of early childhood educators with  
15 associate degrees in early childhood education between June 30, 2021, and  
16 January 31, 2023.
- 17 (8) The number and percentage increase of early childhood educators with  
18 associate degrees between June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2021.

19 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act is effective when it becomes law and expires six  
20 months after the date the Governor signs an executive order rescinding Executive Order No. 116,  
21 Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent  
22 the Spread of COVID-19. Section 2 of this act is effective when it becomes law and expires June  
23 30, 2023. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.