

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 309
Mar 5, 2025
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10107-BG-3A

Short Title: Bldg. Code Fam. Child Care Home Class.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Arp.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE RESIDENTIAL CODE COUNCIL AND BUILDING CODE
3 COUNCIL TO CREATE A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME OCCUPANCY
4 CLASSIFICATION WITHIN THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BUILDING CODE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.(a)** Definitions. – For the purposes of this section, the following
7 definitions apply:

8 (1) Code. – The North Carolina State Building Code, and amendments to the
9 Code, as adopted by the Councils.

10 (2) Councils. – The Residential Code Council and the Building Code Council.

11 (3) Family child care home. – As described in G.S. 110-86(3)b.

12 **SECTION 1.(b)** Family Child Care Home. – Until the effective date of the rules to
13 create a family child care home occupancy classification within a dwelling subject to the North
14 Carolina Residential Code, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Councils, and State and local
15 governments enforcing the Code shall adhere to family child care home requirements as provided
16 in subsection (c) of this section.

17 **SECTION 1.(c)** Implementation. – Notwithstanding Section 310, Residential Group
18 R, of the North Carolina Building Code, and Section 203.10, Residential Group R, of the North
19 Carolina Fire Code, a family child care home located within a dwelling subject to the North
20 Carolina Residential Code shall be treated as a Residential Group R-3 occupancy. The building
21 where the family child care home is located shall be permitted to comply with the North Carolina
22 Residential Code, provided that a family child care home must meet only the following additional
23 requirements:

24 (1) Rooms and areas within a family child care home where occupants receive
25 care shall be on the same level of exit discharge.

26 (2) Rooms and areas within a family child care home where occupants receive
27 care shall be located on the same level with, and within a maximum of 40 feet
28 travel distance to, at least one 2A:10B:C fire extinguisher.

29 (3) A family child care home shall have and maintain a Fire Safety, Evacuation,
30 and Lockdown Plan compliant with Section 404 of the North Carolina Fire
31 Code.

32 (4) A family child care home shall have carbon monoxide alarm and detection
33 systems compliant with Section R315 of the North Carolina Residential Code.

34 (5) A family child care home shall have smoke alarms compliant with Section
35 R314 of the North Carolina Residential Code.



1 **SECTION 1.(d)** Additional Residential Code Council Rulemaking Authority. – The
2 Residential Code Council shall adopt rules to amend the North Carolina Residential Code to
3 create a family child care home occupancy classification within a dwelling subject to the North
4 Carolina Residential Code consistent with subsection (c) of this section. Notwithstanding
5 G.S. 150B-19(4), the rules adopted by the Residential Code Council pursuant to this subsection
6 shall be substantively identical to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. Rules adopted
7 pursuant to this subsection are not subject to Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General
8 Statutes. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection shall become effective as provided in
9 G.S. 150B-21.3(b1), as though 10 or more written objections had been received as provided in
10 G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).

11 **SECTION 1.(e)** Additional Building Code Council Rulemaking Authority. – The
12 Building Code Council shall adopt rules to amend the North Carolina State Building Code
13 volumes specified within G.S. 143-138(a)(1) through (9) to make conforming changes consistent
14 with rules adopted by the Residential Code Council as required by subsection (d) of this section.
15 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are not subject to Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 150B
16 of the General Statutes. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection shall become effective as
17 provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1), as though 10 or more written objections had been received as
18 provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).

19 **SECTION 1.(f)** Sunset. – This section expires when permanent rules adopted as
20 required by subsections (d) and (e) of this section become effective.

21 **SECTION 2.(a)** Definitions. – For the purposes of this section, the following
22 definitions apply:

- 23 (1) Code. – The North Carolina State Building Code, and amendments to the
24 Code, as adopted by the Councils.
- 25 (2) Councils. – The Residential Code Council and the Building Code Council.
- 26 (3) Family child care home. – As described in G.S. 110-86(3)b.

27 **SECTION 2.(b)** Family Child Care Home. – Until the effective date of the rules to
28 create a family child care home occupancy classification within a dwelling subject to the North
29 Carolina Building Code, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Councils, and State and local
30 governments enforcing the Code shall adhere to family child care home requirements as provided
31 in subsection (c) of this section.

32 **SECTION 2.(c)** Implementation. – Notwithstanding Section 310, Residential Group
33 R, of the North Carolina Building Code, and Section 203.10, Residential Group R, of the North
34 Carolina Fire Code, a family child care home located within a dwelling subject to the North
35 Carolina Building Code shall be treated as a Residential Group R-3 occupancy. The dwelling
36 where the family child care home is located shall be permitted to comply with the North Carolina
37 Building Code, provided that a family child care home must meet only the following additional
38 requirements:

- 39 (1) Rooms and areas within a family child care home where occupants receive
40 care shall be on the same level of exit discharge.
- 41 (2) Rooms and areas within a family child care home where occupants receive
42 care shall be located on the same level with, and within a maximum of 40 feet
43 travel distance to, at least one 2A:10B:C fire extinguisher.
- 44 (3) A family child care home shall have and maintain a Fire Safety, Evacuation,
45 and Lockdown Plan compliant with Section 404 of the North Carolina Fire
46 Code.
- 47 (4) A family child care home shall have carbon monoxide alarm and detection
48 systems compliant with Section 915 of the North Carolina Building Code.
- 49 (5) A family child care home shall have smoke alarms compliant with Section
50 R907 of the North Carolina Building Code.

1 **SECTION 2.(d)** Additional Building Code Council Rulemaking Authority. – The
2 Building Code Council shall adopt rules to amend the North Carolina State Building Code
3 volumes specified within G.S. 143-138(a)(1) through (9) to create a family child care home
4 occupancy classification within a dwelling subject to the North Carolina Building Code
5 consistent with subsection (c) of this section. Notwithstanding G.S. 150B-19(4), the rules
6 adopted by the Building Code Council pursuant to this subsection shall be substantively identical
7 to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are
8 not subject to Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. Rules adopted
9 pursuant to this subsection shall become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1), as though
10 10 or more written objections had been received as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).

11 **SECTION 2.(e)** Additional Residential Code Council Rulemaking Authority. – The
12 Residential Code Council shall adopt rules to amend the North Carolina Residential Code to
13 make conforming changes consistent with rules adopted by the Building Code Council as
14 required by subsection (d) of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are not
15 subject to Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. Rules adopted pursuant
16 to this subsection shall become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1), as though 10 or
17 more written objections had been received as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).

18 **SECTION 2.(f)** Sunset. – This section expires when permanent rules adopted as
19 required by subsections (d) and (e) of this section become effective.

20 **SECTION 3.(a)** Definitions. – For the purposes of this section, the following
21 definitions apply:

22 (1) Code. – The North Carolina State Building Code, and amendments to the
23 Code, as adopted by the Councils.

24 (2) Councils. – The Residential Code Council and the Building Code Council.

25 (3) Family child care home. – As described in G.S. 110-86(3)b.

26 **SECTION 3.(b)** Family Child Care Home. – Until the effective date of the rules to
27 create a family child care home occupancy classification within a dwelling subject to the State
28 of North Carolina Regulations for Manufactured Homes, the Office of the State Fire Marshal,
29 the Councils, and State and local governments enforcing the Code shall adhere to family child
30 care home requirements as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

31 **SECTION 3.(c)** Implementation. – Notwithstanding Section 310, Residential Group
32 R, of the North Carolina Building Code, and Section 203.10, Residential Group R, of the North
33 Carolina Fire Code, a family child care home located within a dwelling subject to the State of
34 North Carolina Regulations for Manufactured Homes shall be treated as a Residential Group R-3
35 occupancy. The dwelling where the family child care home is located shall be permitted to
36 comply with the North Carolina Regulations for Manufactured Homes, provided that a family
37 child care home must meet only the following additional requirements:

38 (1) Rooms and areas within a family child care home where occupants receive
39 care shall be on the same level of exit discharge.

40 (2) Rooms and areas within a family child care home where occupants receive
41 care shall be located on the same level with, and within a maximum of 40 feet
42 travel distance to, at least one 2A:10B:C fire extinguisher.

43 (3) A family child care home shall have and maintain a Fire Safety, Evacuation,
44 and Lockdown Plan compliant with Section 404 of the North Carolina Fire
45 Code.

46 (4) A family child care home shall have carbon monoxide alarm and detection
47 systems compliant with Section R315 of the North Carolina Residential Code.

48 (5) A family child care home shall have smoke alarms compliant with Section
49 R314 of the North Carolina Residential Code.

50 **SECTION 3.(d)** Additional Building Code Council Rulemaking Authority. – The
51 Building Code Council shall adopt rules to amend the North Carolina State Building Code

1 volumes specified within G.S. 143-138(a)(1) through (9) to create a family child care home
 2 occupancy classification within a dwelling subject to the State of North Carolina Regulations for
 3 Manufactured Homes consistent with subsection (c) of this section. Notwithstanding
 4 G.S. 150B-19(4), the rules adopted by the Building Code Council pursuant to this subsection
 5 shall be substantively identical to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. Rules adopted
 6 pursuant to this subsection are not subject to Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General
 7 Statutes. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection shall become effective as provided in
 8 G.S. 150B-21.3(b1), as though 10 or more written objections had been received as provided in
 9 G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).

10 **SECTION 3.(e)** Additional Residential Code Council Rulemaking Authority. – The
 11 Residential Code Council shall adopt rules to amend the North Carolina Residential Code to
 12 make conforming changes consistent with rules adopted by the Building Code Council as
 13 required by subsection (d) of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are not
 14 subject to Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. Rules adopted pursuant
 15 to this subsection shall become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1), as though 10 or
 16 more written objections had been received as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).

17 **SECTION 3.(f)** Sunset. – This section expires when permanent rules adopted as
 18 required by subsections (d) and (e) of this section become effective.

19 **SECTION 4.(a)** G.S. 110-86 reads as rewritten:

20 "**§ 110-86. Definitions.**

21 Unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires, the terms or phrases used in this
 22 Article shall be defined as follows:

23 ...

24 (3) Child care facility. – Includes child care centers, family child care homes, and
 25 any other child care arrangement not excluded by G.S. 110-86(2), that
 26 provides child care, regardless of the time of day, wherever operated, and
 27 whether or not operated for profit.

28 a. A child care center is an arrangement where, at any one time, there are
 29 three or more preschool-age children or nine or more school-age
 30 children receiving child care.

31 b. A family child care home is a child care arrangement located in a
 32 ~~residence~~ an operator occupied private dwelling where, at any one
 33 time, more than two children, but less than 11 children, receive child
 34 care, provided the arrangement is in accordance with G.S. 110-91(7)b.

35"

36 **SECTION 4.(b)** G.S. 110-91 reads as rewritten:

37 "**§ 110-91. Mandatory standards for a license.**

38 All child care facilities shall comply with all State laws and federal laws and local ordinances
 39 that pertain to child health, safety, and welfare. Except as otherwise provided in this Article, the
 40 standards in this section shall be complied with by all child care facilities. However, none of the
 41 standards in this section apply to the school-age children of the operator of a child care facility
 42 but do apply to the preschool-age children of the operator. Children 13 years of age or older may
 43 receive child care on a voluntary basis provided all applicable required standards are met. The
 44 standards in this section, along with any other applicable State laws and federal laws or local
 45 ordinances, shall be the required standards for the issuance of a license by the Secretary under
 46 the policies and procedures of the Commission except that the Commission may, in its discretion,
 47 adopt less stringent standards for the licensing of facilities which provide care on a temporary,
 48 part-time, drop-in, seasonal, after-school or other than a full-time basis.

49 ...

50 (4) Building. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building which meets
 51 the appropriate requirements of the North Carolina State Building Code ~~under~~

1 standards which shall be developed by the ~~Building Code Council, Code,~~
2 subject to adoption by the Commission specifically for child care facilities,
3 including facilities operated ~~in a private residence, as family child care homes.~~
4 These standards shall be consistent with the provisions of this Article. A local
5 building code enforcement officer shall approve any proposed alternate
6 material, design, or method of construction, provided the building code
7 enforcement officer finds that the alternate, for the purpose intended, is at least
8 the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical building codes in quality,
9 strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, or safety. A local building
10 code enforcement officer shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be
11 submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate. The Child
12 Care Commission may request changes to the North Carolina State Building
13 Code to suit the special needs of preschool children. Satisfactorily written
14 reports from representatives of building inspection agencies shall be required
15 prior to the issuance of a license and whenever renovations are made to a child
16 care center, or when the operator requests licensure of space not previously
17 approved for child care.

- 18 (5) Fire Prevention. – Each child care facility shall be located in a building that
19 meets appropriate requirements for fire prevention and safe evacuation that
20 apply to child care facilities as established by the ~~Department of Insurance~~
21 Office of the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department. Except
22 for child care centers located on State property, each child care center shall be
23 inspected at least annually by a local fire department or volunteer fire
24 department for compliance with these requirements. Child care centers located
25 on State property shall be inspected at least annually by an official designated
26 by the ~~Department of Insurance, Office of the State Fire Marshal.~~

27 "

28 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.