

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5683

To require the development of a best practices guide for individuals seeking to establish and operate a Family Child Care home on a military installation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 15, 2026

Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD), under authority of the order of the Senate of September 30, 2026, introduced the following bill; which was ordered read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the development of a best practices guide for individuals seeking to establish and operate a Family Child Care home on a military installation.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Best Practices for Mili-
5 tary Family Child Care Homes Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BEST PRACTICES GUIDE**
7 **FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense

1 shall publish a Department-wide best practices guide for
2 individuals seeking to establish and operate a Family
3 Child Care home on a military installation.

4 (b) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In developing
5 the guide required under subsection (a), the Secretary of
6 Defense shall consult with military departments, military
7 installations, Family Child Care program administrators,
8 and established Family Child Care providers operating
9 under successful Family Child Care programs across the
10 Department of Defense to identify and incorporate best
11 practices, lessons learned, and approaches that have dem-
12 onstrated success in expanding participation and reducing
13 barriers to establishing and operating Family Child Care
14 homes.

15 (c) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—The guide required
16 under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum—

17 (1) an overview of the process for becoming a
18 certified Family Child Care provider;

19 (2) standardized information regarding train-
20 ing, inspections, background checks, licensing, and
21 certification requirements;

22 (3) guidance regarding available financial as-
23 sistance, startup support, subsidies, grants, and re-
24 imbursement opportunities;

1 (4) information on liability coverage, safety
2 standards, and emergency preparedness require-
3 ments;

4 (5) recommendations for reducing administra-
5 tive barriers to establishing Family Child Care
6 homes; and

7 (6) any additional information the Secretary de-
8 termines appropriate to support prospective Family
9 Child Care providers.

10 (d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall
11 make the guide required under subsection (a) publicly
12 available on an internet website of the Department of De-
13 fense in a searchable and accessible format for military
14 families.

15 (e) SERVICE-SPECIFIC APPENDICES.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
17 shall encourage the Secretaries of the military de-
18 partments to publish and maintain service-specific
19 appendices accompanying the guide required under
20 subsection (a).

21 (2) CONTENTS.—A service-specific appendix
22 under paragraph (1) may include—

23 (A) service-specific policies or procedures;

24 (B) installation-level best practices;

1 (C) information regarding unique oper-
2 ational requirements or child care demands
3 within the military department concerned;

4 (D) guidance regarding military housing
5 considerations related to Family Child Care
6 homes; and

7 (E) points of contact and resources specific
8 to the military department concerned.

9 (f) BRIEFING.—Not later than 18 months after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
11 shall provide a briefing to the congressional defense com-
12 mittees (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United
13 States Code) regarding—

14 (1) actions taken to implement this section;

15 (2) efforts to improve awareness of Family
16 Child Care opportunities among military spouses
17 and families;

18 (3) barriers identified in the establishment of
19 Family Child Care homes; and

20 (4) recommendations for legislative or adminis-
21 trative action to improve military child care capacity.

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