



ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**Kevin Mullin**

DISTRICT 22

## AB 2131: Childcare Facilities



### BACKGROUND

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In the 1970s, California led the nation in creating a licensing system for child care facilities, by creating age-appropriate distinct licenses for infants and preschool-age care. Over the years, several conflicts arose with the separate licenses, including the lack of flexibility for programs to serve toddlers.

Eventually, multiple licenses were consolidated into a single child care license. The new license will begin issuance this year upon completion of the new regulations. All licenses must be converted to the new consolidated license by January 1, 2024. However, there remains in statute language for a special licensing component, bridging the previous infant and preschool licenses, known as the “toddler option.”

### PROBLEM

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AB 605, (Mullin, 2018) sought to create the consolidated license that addressed the multi-license issues. However, language regarding the “toddler option” remained in statute for use by the California Department of Social Services with the existing licenses. The language was intentionally retained to allow providers to continue serving toddlers during the period of transition while the new licenses were developed and implemented. Now that the new single-license will begin to be issued, the language bridging the two previous licenses is an obstacle to the development of a single license.

The flexibility provided by a single license is welcomed by providers, who indicate that being able to serve varying ages of children is critical to permitting their businesses to remain open and successful. With the expansion of Transitional Kindergarten, which will shift care for many four-year-olds from child care facilities to the K-12 system, the need for increased flexibility for child care providers to shift to serving younger children is

particularly acute. This bill will give the Department the authority to implement the new license for all providers via All Provider Letter while regulations are being developed, allowing the needed regulations to be more promptly implemented.

### LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

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Community Care Licensing (CCL) provides and administers licenses for Infants (Birth-2yrs) and Preschoolers (2yrs-entering first grade). The “toddler option” refers to the component of an infant or preschool care program license designed for children between the ages of 18 and 36 months. A schoolage child care center provides care to children between kindergarten and their thirteenth birthday.

### PROPOSAL

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AB 2131 will remove outdated language remaining in statute regarding the “toddler option” that creates a barrier to the implementation of a single license for child care providers through the California Department of Social Services.

Additionally, AB 2131 will create flexibility in statute that will allow the Department to accelerate the timeline for completion of issuance of the new childcare license to providers.

### SUPPORT

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Head Start California

### STAFF Contact

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Miriam Farouk  
State Capitol Swing Space, Room 8320  
(916) 319-2022  
[miriam.farouk@asm.ca.gov](mailto:miriam.farouk@asm.ca.gov)