

## HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	House File 2198	House Committee:	<b>PASSED 1/27/22 (19-1)</b>
Committee:	Human Resources	House Floor:	<b>PASSED 3/2/22 (55-43)</b>
Floor Manager:	Rep. Ann Meyer		<b>PASSED 4/26/22 (52-42)</b>
Date:	May 19, 2022	Senate Floor:	<b>PASSED 4/18/22 (30-18)</b>
Staff:	Natalie Ginty (5-2063)	Governor:	<b>SIGNED 6/16/22</b>

### Child Care Regulations

- This bill will allow 16 and 17-year-olds to provide child care in a center for school-aged children without supervision, and allows child care centers to increase their 2-year-old ratio by one child, and to increase their 3-year-old ratio by two children. The changes in ratios align Iowa with the vast majority of states.

### IOWA CHILD-STAFF RATIO REQUIREMENTS/STANDINGS

	6 weeks	11 months	18 months	35 months	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5
<b>Iowa Ratio</b>	<b>1:4</b>	<b>1:4</b>	<b>1:4</b>	<b>1:6</b>	<b>1:8</b>	<b>1:12</b>	<b>1:15</b>
# of States with Same Ratio	32	32	11	7	3	13	12
Number of States Allowing More than Iowa	14	14	37	35	43	18	17
Number of States Allowing Less than Iowa	3	3	1	7	3	18	20

### Section by Section Analysis

#### Section 1 (Iowa Code 726.23)

Revises Iowa's prohibition on fingerprinting children to allow for fingerprints voluntarily given with the written permission of the child and parent for the purposes of working as an employee at a child care center. Federal funds require all individuals working in child care to have received a comprehensive background check, including fingerprints.

#### Section 2 – Child Care Provider Minimum Age Requirement

Requires DHS to amend rules to allow for employees and substitutes working at a child care facility who are 16 years of age or older to provide child care in a center with a room of school-aged children without additional supervision.

#### Section 3 – Child Care Center Staff Ration Rules

This section addresses a recommendation from the Governor's Child Care Task Force that asked DHS to "review child-staff ratio requirements, which are narrower for children ages 18 months through age 3 than the vast majority of states." This section directs DHS to revise rules to increase the ratio for 2-year-olds by 1 child, and increase the ratio for 3-year-olds by 2 children. This section aligns Iowa with the vast majority of states.

#### Section 4 – Immediate effective date for Section 3