

Mission:

To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

September 22, 2025

Chairman Snyder
Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Re: Local Bill Amending Chapter 2010-249 Laws of Florida
Palm Beach County Child Care Facilities and Family Child Care Homes

Dear Chairman Snyder,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing you to request your support for amending the Special Act of the Florida Legislature (2010-249) (Act) which was originally passed in 1959, and which governs the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners' (County) and the Florida Department of Health's (Department) oversight of child care facilities and family child care homes in Palm Beach County.

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) oversees child care in 63 of Florida's 67 counties. A County may regulate child care as a local licensing agency, provided its rules governing child care are as strict, or stricter, than DCF's child care rules.

The County has designated the Child Care Advisory Council (Council) to act on the Commission's behalf for issuing child care licenses in the County. The Council can also deny or revoke child care licenses. The Department regulates childcare facilities and family child care homes with regular inspections and enforcement of rule violations.

The Act currently specifies how many children can be in family and large family child care homes. DCF has increased the number of children allowed to attend family child care homes, under strict conditions. The Department and the Council would also like to increase the number of children who can safely attend a family child care home. The Department and the Council cannot make these changes to the Palm Beach County Family Child Care Rules, because the Act restricts the number of children allowed in family and large family child care homes.

The amendment would eliminate the numerical limits regarding family child care from the Act, and instead state that the number of children who attend family child care homes in Palm Beach County shall never exceed the numbers allowed by the laws governing DCF. This amendment will enable the Council and the Department, through rulemaking, to increase the number of children who may attend a family child care home, under safe and appropriate conditions. Other rules will also be factored into the number of children allowed in a family child care home, such as the home's square footage, and zoning. At no time will a family child care home be licensed for more children than allowed by DCF.

Florida Department of Health, Palm Beach County
Legal Office
P.O. Box 29, 800 Clematis Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
PHONE: 561-671-4007 FAX: 561-837-5195
FloridaHealth.gov / palmbeach.floridahealth.gov



Accredited Health Department
Public Health Accreditation Board

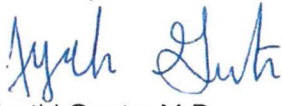
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This amendment, followed by rulemaking, will hopefully assist with the shortage of child care in Palm Beach County.

Palm Beach County's Legislative Affairs Director, Alessandro Marchesani, will be presenting the proposed local bill at the Local Bill Hearing. He can be contacted by email at amarchesani@pbc.gov or by phone at (305) 308-2104.

I thank you in advance for your careful consideration of this request for support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jyothi Gunta".

Jyothi Gunta, M.D.
Director

DATE: 9/8/2025

SUMMARY FACT SHEET

Summary: Chapter 59-1698, Laws of Florida, as amended, (Act) charges the Florida Department of Health, Palm Beach (Department) with the administrative responsibility of inspecting child care facilities, family and large family child care homes. The Act also creates the Child Care Advisory Council, which is composed of seven members, appointed by the Palm Beach Board of County Commissioners. The Council issues all licenses for child care facilities, family and large family child care homes, in Palm Beach County.

Currently, in Section (1) of the Act (definitions) a family child care home is defined as, “An occupied residence in which custodial care is rendered from one to six children...” A large family child care home is defined as having, “A maximum of eight children from birth to 24 months of age”, or, “A maximum of 12 children with no more than four children under 24 months of age.”

The Florida Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) inspects and issues licenses for 63 of 67 counties in Florida. The law requires that local licensing agency rules governing child care, must be as strict or stricter than DCF. DCF recently increased the number of children allowed to attend family and large family child care homes.

The proposed changes to the Act would eliminate the numbers in the definitions related to children in family and large family child care homes. The Act would state that the number of children in family and large family child care homes shall never exceed the number of children allowed by DCF laws.

The request is made to enable the Department and the Council, through rulemaking, to increase the number of children allowed in family and large family child care homes, while limiting the number of children to the numbers allowed by DCF laws.

The purpose of this request is to allow owners of family and large family child care homes to expand their businesses, while providing more child care options for families and parents.

1 CHAPTER 2025-

2 House Bill No.

3 An act relating to Palm Beach County; amending chapter 59-1698, Laws of Florida, as
4 amended, revising and providing definitions of family day care home, large family child
5 care home, and child care facility; providing an effective date.

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

7
8 Section 1. Subsections (2) and (3) of Section 1 of chapter 59-1698, Laws of
9 Florida, as amended is amended to read as follows:

10
11 Section 2. Definition.

12
13 (2) Family Day Care Home - An occupied residence in which custodial care is
14 rendered to ~~one to six~~ children, ~~inclusive~~, and for which the owner or operator
15 receives a payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether
16 or not operating for profit, subject to the exemptions contained in Section 9. The
17 number of children in care shall never exceed the number of children allowed by
18 the Florida Department of Children and Families statutes and administrative rules.

19
20 (3) Large Family Child Care Home - An occupied residence in which custodial
21 care is regularly provided for children, and for which the owner or operator receives
22 a payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or not
23 operated for profit, and which has at least two full-time child care personnel on the

premises during the hours of operation. One of the full-time child care personnel must be the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child care home must first have operated as a licensed family day care home for 2 years, with an operator who has had a child development associate credential or its equivalent for 1 year, before seeking licensure as a large family child care home. The number of children in care shall never exceed the number of children allowed by the Florida Department of Children and Families statutes and administrative rules. ~~A large family child family child care home shall be allowed to provide care for one of the following groups of children, which shall include those children under 13 years of age who are related to the caregiver:~~

~~a. A maximum of eight children from birth to 24 months of age.~~

~~b. A maximum of 12 children with no more than four children under~~

~~24 months of age.~~

Section 3. Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
LOCAL BILL ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FORM

****Read all instructions carefully.****

House local bill policy prohibits a local bill from being considered by a committee or subcommittee without an Economic Impact Statement. This form must be prepared by an individual who is qualified to establish fiscal data and impacts and has personal knowledge of the information given (for example, a chief financial officer of a particular local government) and include information for the first two full fiscal years after the effective date of the local bill. Please file this completed form with the Clerk of the House as soon as possible after a bill is filed. Additional pages may be attached as necessary.

BILL #: _____

SPONSOR(S): _____

RELATING TO: Palm Beach County Family Child Care Homes (amending definitions)

[Indicate Area Affected (City, County or Special District) and Subject]

☐ Check if this is a revised Economic Impact Statement

I. REVENUES:

These figures are new revenues that would not exist but for the passage of the bill. The term "revenue" contemplates, but is not limited to, taxes, fees, and special assessments. For example, license plate fees may be a revenue source. If the bill will add or remove property or individuals from the tax base, include this information as well.

	<u>First FY</u>	<u>Second FY</u>
Revenue decrease due to bill:	\$ <u>0.00</u>	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Revenue increase due to bill:	\$ <u>0.00</u>	\$ <u>0.00</u>

II. COST:

Include all costs, both direct and indirect, including start-up costs. If the bill repeals the existence of a certain entity, state the related costs, such as satisfying liabilities and distributing assets.

Expenditures for Implementation, Administration, and Enforcement:

<u>First FY</u>	<u>Second FY</u>
\$ <u>0.00</u>	\$ <u>0.00</u>

Please include explanations and calculations regarding how each dollar figure was determined in reaching total cost.

The bill amends several definitions of family child care homes enabling the County and the Department to have more flexibility in the number of children in family child care homes. The number of children in Family Child Care will never exceed the number of children allowed by the Florida Department of Children and Families. This bill will have no economic impact on family day care providers of the Florida Department of Health who regulates child care in Palm Beach County. --

III. FUNDING SOURCE(S):

State the specific sources from which funding will be received, for example, license plate fees, state funds, borrowed funds, or special assessments.

If certain funding changes are anticipated to occur beyond the following two fiscal years, explain the change and at what rate taxes, fees, or assessments will be collected in those years.

	<u>First FY</u>	<u>Second FY</u>
Local:	\$ <u>0.00</u>	\$ <u>0.00</u>
State:	\$ _____	\$ _____
Federal:	\$ _____	\$ _____

IV. ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Potential Advantages:

Include all possible outcomes linked to the bill, such as increased efficiencies, and positive or negative changes to tax revenue. If an act is being repealed or an entity dissolved, include the increased or decreased efficiencies caused thereby. Include specific figures for anticipated job growth.

1. Advantages to Individuals: Parents waiting for child care to become
available will potentially have more choices if Family Day
Care Homes increase their capacity by several kids.
2. Advantages to Businesses: Owners of Family day Care Homes can
potentially make more money by serving
several more children in their homes.
3. Advantages to Government: N/A

Potential Disadvantages:

Include all possible outcomes linked to the bill, such as inefficiencies, shortages, or market changes anticipated. Include reduced business opportunities, such as reduced access to capital or training. State any decreases in tax revenue as a result of the bill.

1. Disadvantages to Individuals: N/A

2. Disadvantages to Businesses: N/A

3. Disadvantages to Government: N/A

V. DESCRIBE THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE BILL ON PRESENT GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES:

The Florida Department of Health ("Department") staff inspect Child Care Homes and Facilities. The Department already has to inspect the Family Day Care Homes so this change is not expected to have any economic impact on the Department. Child Care Providers already pay the Department permit fees.

VI. SPECIFIC DATA USED IN REACHING ESTIMATES:

Include the type(s) and source(s) of data used, percentages, dollar figures, all assumptions made, history of the industry/issue affected by the bill, and any audits.

N/A The bill has no fiscal impact on the public or the government. Family Child Care Homes pay permit fees which will not be affected as a result of approval.

VII. CERTIFICATION BY PREPARER

I hereby certify I am qualified to establish fiscal data and impacts and have personal knowledge of the information given. I have reviewed all available financial information applicable to the substance of the above-stated local bill and confirm the foregoing

Economic Impact Statement is a true and accurate estimate of the economic impact of the bill.

PREPARED BY: 
[Must be signed by Preparer]

Print preparer's name: Jyothi Gunta, M.D.

Sept 16, 2025
Date

TITLE (such as Executive Director, Actuary, Chief Accountant, or Budget Director):

Department of Health,

Palm Beach County

REPRESENTING: _____

PHONE: 561-671-4005

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Jyothi.Gunta@flhealth.gov

CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES IN PALM BEACH COUNTY LOCAL BILL

Local Bill Amending Chapter 2010-249 Laws of Florida

In 1959 the Legislature passed Chapter 59-1698, Laws of Florida which established that the Child Care Advisory Council (Council), sitting as the Board of County Commissioners, licenses child care facilities and family child care homes in Palm Beach County. The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County (Department) regulates child care facilities and family child care homes through regular inspections and enforcement of violations of the Palm Beach County Rules and Regulations Governing Child Care Facilities and Family Child Care Homes.

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) licenses and regulates child care facilities and family child care homes in 63 of the 67 counties in Florida. A County may regulate child care as a local licensing agency, provided its rules governing child care are as strict or stricter than DCF.

Palm Beach County is the only county in Florida with legislation outlining child care in the county.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment addresses minor but important changes to the definitions of Family Day Care Homes and Large Family Child Care Homes. Currently, the Act specifies how many children can attend a Family Day Care Home and a Large Family Child Care Home. The amendment would eliminate the numerical limits in the definitions and instead state that the number of children in Family and Large Family Child Care Homes will never exceed the number of children allowed in Family and Large Family Child Care Homes by DCF.

Challenges Addressed

DCF recently increased the number of children who can attend Family and Large Family Child Care Homes, subject to other limitations such as the homeowner's square footage and zoning in the area. The Council and the Department, through rulemaking, would like to increase the number of children who can attend Family and Large Family Child

Care Homes, subject to the same limitations. Presently, the Council and the Department cannot increase the number of children who attend Family and Large Family Child Care Homes, because the definitions in the law limit that number.

Benefits of the Proposed Bill

By deleting the numerical limitations in the Special Act, the Council and the Department, through rulemaking, can change the number of children allowed to attend Family and Large Family Child Care Homes. The amendment will also state that the number of children attending Family Day Care Homes and Large Family Child Care Homes can never be greater than what DCF allows. As always, other child care rules will be applied to each Family and Large Family Child Care Home and would factor into the determination of the number of children who can attend one of these homes. A Family Child Care Home owner must be properly zoned for, have sufficient square footage for, and have the appropriate number of employees to supervise the number of children for which the owner is asking to be licensed.

It is difficult to estimate how many Family and Large Family Child Care Home owners will be licensed to care for more children. However, some of the Family and Large Family Child Care owners will be able to increase the number of children in their care. By deleting the numbers in the law, the Council and the Department, through rulemaking, can balance child safety with increasing attendance at Family Child Care Facilities. This will assist with the shortage of child care in Palm Beach County and promote business growth for the Family Child Care providers.