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Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

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S.206 – An act relating to licensure of early childhood educators by the Office of Professional Regulation

As passed by the Senate¹

Bill Summary

This bill would create the Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators at the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR), consisting of nine members: two members from the public and seven early childhood educators. The Board would be responsible for the licensure and regulation of individuals providing care and instruction to children through age 8 in early childhood programs regulated by the Child Development Division at the Department for Children and Families.

S.206 would establish licenses and a regulatory board at OPR for early childhood educators

The bill would create the following biennial license types effective July 1, 2028:

- Early Educator I: received a certificate from an approved credential program in early childhood education that required at least 120 hours of training and instruction.
- Early Educator II: either received an associate's degree in early childhood education from an approved 60-credit program or received an associate's degree in an unrelated program with 21 credits in core early childhood education competency areas.
- Early Educator III: received a bachelors degree from an approved program in early childhood education or in an unrelated field with 21 credits in core early childhood competency areas.
- Family Child Care Provider: a individual qualifies for this licensure if the Child Development Division has authorized the provider to operate a family child care home. The Board would stop accepting applications for this license type on January 1, 2029.

The Board would be able to issue two-year Early Childhood Educator II and III transitional licenses to teachers and directors who do not meet the above criteria. These transitional licenses would sunset on July 1, 2036.

¹ The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations.

Sec. 5 would require OPR to report on licensure of early childhood educators on or before November 1, 2031, including information on the number of licensees and qualifications required of each license type, the State resources necessary to implement the new licensing board, and the number and nature of complaints or enforcement actions against licensees.

The bill would create two new positions at OPR in fiscal year 2027:

- A full-time executive officer for the Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators
- One full-time staff attorney

The bill would appropriate \$262,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 2027 to OPR to be used for the licensure of early childhood educators. Fee revenue would not be available until fiscal year 2029, meaning that additional funding would be required in fiscal year 2028 to support these positions.

The bill has multiple effective dates: the creation of the Board and fiscal year 2027 appropriation would be effective July 1, 2026, and all license types would be effective July 1, 2028.

Fiscal Impact

According to information provided by OPR, the licensure provisions of the bill would generate approximately \$800,000 in fiscal year 2029, and approximately \$1.2 million biennially thereafter.

Some licensing activity would occur outside of this biennial structure, generating about \$100,000 in every even fiscal year. License fee revenues would be deposited in the OPR Professional Regulatory Fee Fund, which ended fiscal year 2025 with a fund balance of -\$186,169.

Table 1: Estimated Early Child Educator License Fee Revenue

	License Application Fee	License Renewal Fee	Estimated Number of Licensees	Estimated Initial License Revenue – FY29	Estimated Biennial License Renewal – FY31 and every odd fiscal year thereafter
Early Childhood Educator I	\$125	\$225	2,150	\$61,250	\$87,500
Early Childhood Educator II	\$175	\$250	2,000	\$268,750	\$483,750
Early Childhood Educator III	\$225	\$275	500	\$350,000	\$500,000
Family Child Care Provider	\$175	\$250	350	\$112,500	\$137,500
Totals			5,000	\$792,500	\$1,208,750

The OPR Early Childhood Education Sunrise Review Assessment notes that in addition to the two positions created in the bill, three additional positions would be needed to adequately regulate this profession.² These positions would approximately cost an additional \$370,000 annually, starting in fiscal year 2028.

² <https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Early-Childhood-Education-Sunrise-Report.pdf>

¹ The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.