

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

H.B. 815
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10391-NB-56

Short Title: The Loving Homes Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Chesser.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO ALLOW ONE CHILD OR SIBLINGS IN FOSTER CARE TO BE PLACED IN
A FAMILY FOSTER HOME IF THE FOSTER FAMILY HAS FIVE BIOLOGICAL
CHILDREN.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 1A of Chapter 131D of the General Statutes is amended by
adding a new section to read:

"§ 131D-10.2C. Allowable number of children in family foster home.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, no more than five children shall reside in any family foster home at any time. These five children include the foster parent's own children, children placed for family foster care, licensed capacity for in-home day care children, children kept for babysitting or any other children residing in the home. Children kept for in-home day care and babysitting are considered residents of the home.

(b) A family foster home may have more than five children if one of the following exceptions apply:

(1) If written documentation is submitted to the licensing authority for family foster care that siblings will be placed together and the foster home complies with all other licensure requirements. The out-of-home family services agreement for each sibling shall specify that siblings will be placed together and shall also address the foster parents' skill, stamina, and ability to care for the children.

(2) A family foster home that would otherwise qualify for family foster home licensure or placement of one child or siblings in foster care, but does not qualify solely due to the presence five children in the home, shall be eligible for licensure as a family foster home or placement of a child or siblings in foster care. Written documentation must be submitted to the licensing authority that siblings will be placed together to allow more than five children to be placed in the foster home under this section. The out-of-home family services agreement for each sibling shall specify that siblings will be placed together. Any family foster home qualifying for placement of more than five children under this section shall meet all other licensure requirements."

SECTION 2. The Social Services Commission shall adopt temporary rules to implement G.S. 131D-10.2C, as enacted by Section 1 of this act. Temporary rules adopted in accordance with this subsection shall remain in effect until permanent rules that replace the temporary rules become effective.



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1 **SECTION 3.** If necessary to implement G.S. 131D-10.2C, as enacted by Section 1
2 of this act, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services or
3 appropriate agency must submit an updated State Plan to the United States Secretary of Health
4 and Human Services for approval in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 671 to maintain federal funding
5 for foster care maintenance payments.

6 **SECTION 4.** Section 1 becomes effective on October 1, 2023, if a State Plan
7 amendment is not necessary to implement G.S. 131D-10.2C, as enacted in Section 1 of this act.
8 If the submittance of a State Plan amendment is necessary to implement G.S. 131D-10.2C, as
9 enacted in Section 1 of this act, then Section 1 is effective on the date that the family foster care
10 home rule is changed, as approved by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services
11 in accordance Section 3 of this act. The Secretary of Department of Health and Human Services
12 shall report to the Revisor of Statutes when the family foster care home is changed under this act,
13 if approved by State Plan amendment and the specific date approved for that change, or on
14 October 1, 2023, as applicable. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.