

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 969

Short Title: Amend Purpose/Child Placing/Child Care Laws. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Queen.

Referred to: Judiciary II.

March 26, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT AMENDING THE POLICY OF NORTH CAROLINA REGARDING THE  
3 PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE UNDER THE LAWS PERTAINING TO  
4 CHILD PLACING AND CARE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 131D-10.1 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 131D-10.1. Purpose.

8 It is the policy of this State to strengthen and preserve the family as a ~~unit~~unit consistent  
9 with a high priority of protecting children's welfare. When a child requires care outside the  
10 family unit, it is the duty of the State to assure that the quality of substitute care is as close as  
11 possible to the care and nurturing that society expects of a family. However, the State  
12 recognizes there are instances when protecting a child's welfare outweighs reunifying the  
13 family unit, and as such, the care of children in primarily educational institutions or residential  
14 education programs satisfies the standard of protecting a child's welfare, regardless of the  
15 child's age, particularly when the sibling groups can be kept in tact.

16 The purpose of this Article is to assign the authority to protect the health, safety and  
17 well-being of children separated from or being cared for away from their families."

18 SECTION 2. The Division of Social Services of the Department of Health and  
19 Human Services shall revise its rules to reflect the policy changes under G.S. 131D-10.1, as  
20 enacted in Section 1 of this act.

21 SECTION 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.

