

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 969
Judiciary II Committee Substitute Adopted 5/6/09

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

Sponsors:

Referred to:

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 residential care facilities providing high quality services
14 that include meeting the children's educational needs as determined by the Department of
15 Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services can satisfy the standard of protecting a
16 child's welfare, regardless of the child's age, particularly when the sibling groups can be kept
17 intact.

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

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

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

