



Licensing Reform

*Ensuring children are safe
when they're out of their
family's care*

SB3907 (Sen. Morrison)/HB5373 (Rep. Mason)

May 6, 2026

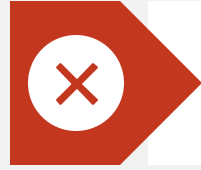


Why is Child Care Licensing So Important?

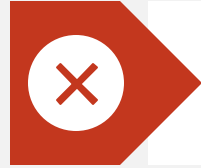
- Every state is required to have regulations for care settings that keep infants, toddlers, and children safe.
- Every year children experience everything from minor bumps and bruises to abuse, neglect, assault, and worse, in care settings.
- Parents believe preschool and care are regulated to keep their children safe.
- Licensing regulations are and have always been required as part of the \$2 Billion in federal funding for child care.

The system is not organized for success.

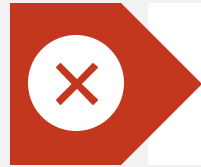
- In FY 25 there were **1,601 investigations** of licensed and unlicensed day cares.
- There were over **100 complaints** on the process.



Licensing statute and rules are out of date, still require “quarter in your pocket for a payphone” if taking children for a walk.



Background checks take too long, and have to be redone every time an employee starts a new job.



There is too much paperwork; Applications repeat the same questions and take a long time to complete.



Licensed programs need more intensive support to maintain requirements.



Refer to early childhood educators as "Day Care workers".



Current exemption framework is subjective and confusing, burdening providers without being tied to safety, leaving children vulnerable.



Parents don't have assurance employees watching children have undergone appropriate background checks.

What is **current law** to keep children safe?

SB 3907 DOES NOT shut down programs operating legally under current law.

CURRENT LAW



Swim class for kids over 5?



Ballet class for 3 y.o. for 1 hr?



Baseball practice for 7 y.o.?



Summer camp for 5+ y.o.?



"Preschool" for 2 y.o.?



"Moms and Tots" ?

Required to submit application for exemption

Exempt if meet hours requirement and must comply state fire marshal. If don't meet hour requirements for exemption, must also meet staff qualifications and training.

Required to be Fully Licensed

Fully exempt; no application needed

**Effective July 1,
2027 for providers
& July 1, 2028 for
Park Districts**

**Modernize
Statute**

**Improve
Background
Check
Process**

**Streamline
License
Exemption**

SB3907

reduces

complexity that

causes

inconsistent

enforcement

Professionalize Industry

- Changes "day care" to "early care and education"

Modernize Statute

- Reduces confusion in the field and eliminates outdated day-care licensing requirements

Provide Flexibility

- Background checks will follow the person, giving flexibility for faster hiring and to move staff between locations.

Closes Loopholes

- Ensures all adults caring for children in care are checked in the Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System and Sex Offender Registry

Consistent and Clear

- Gives clearer direction to new providers wanting to start their businesses.

Less Paperwork

- Reduces approval time for license exempt application
- 60+ pages to 4 items entered in a portal
- Providers receiving Child Care Assistance funding will shift from 2 applications to 1



- ✓ Clearer rules child care providers of all types.
- ✓ Background checks follow the educator.
- ✓ More support from IDEC.
- ✓ In effect July 2027 for providers and July 2028 for Parks.

THANK YOU!

SB 3907 oversight spectrum: 5 categories

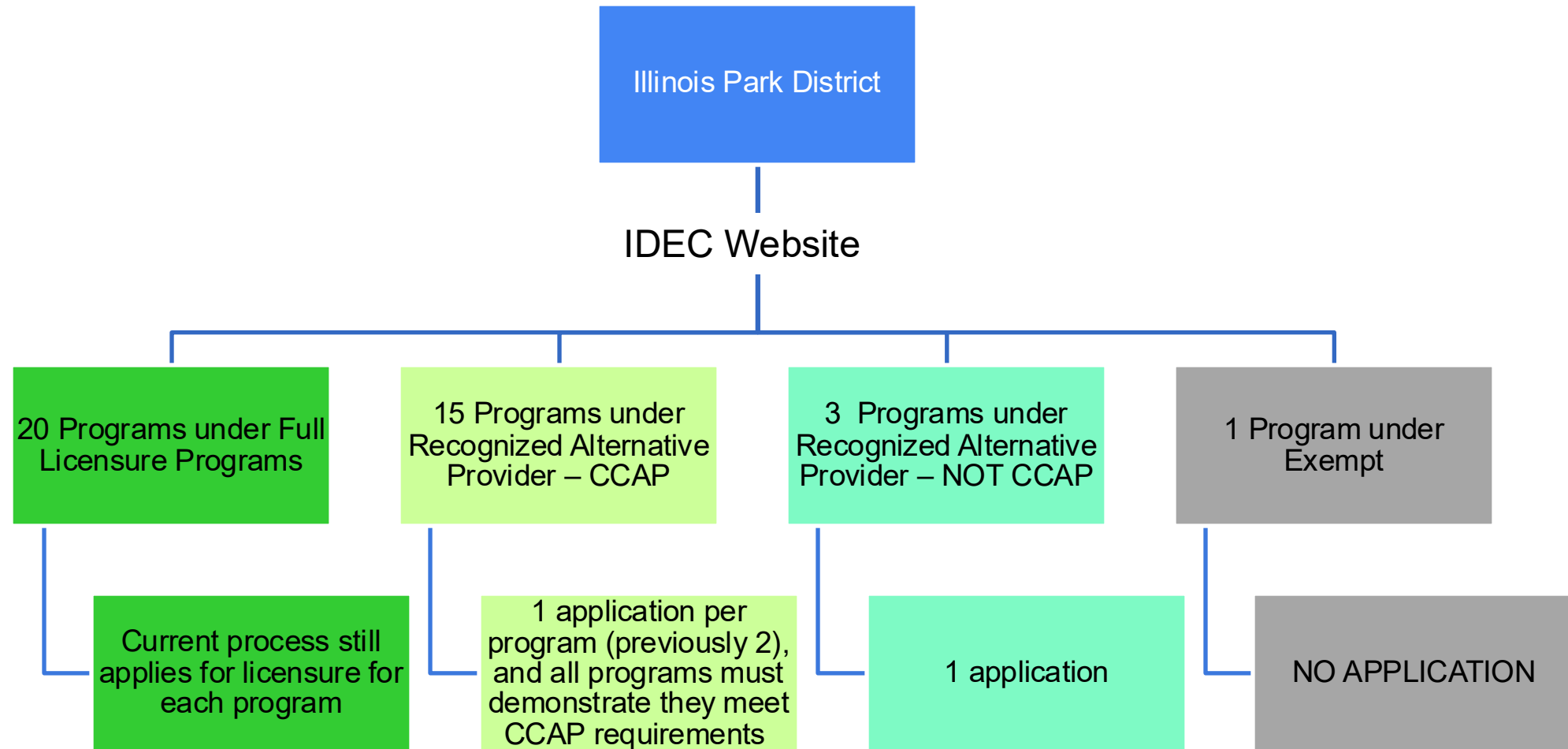
No oversight (Exempt)	Oversight by other agency (Non-IDEC oversight)	Partial oversight by IDEC (Recognized Alternative Provider) for programs without CCAP	Partial oversight by IDEC for program w/CCAP (Recognized Alternative Provider) with CCAP	Full oversight by IDEC (Full licensure)
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Small-scale care (e.g., FFN) ✓ Drop-in services parents on site ✓ Extracurricular activities (3>5= under 1 hour; 5> fully exempt). E.g., swim class, gymnastics, soccer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Federal premises ✓ Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Short-term care ✓ Summer Programming ✓ Part-day care ✓ Religious schools (w/o other oversight) ✓ Before- and after-care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Short-term care ✓ Summer Programming ✓ Part-day care ✓ Before- and after-care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Day care homes ✓ Day care centers ✓ Group day care homes
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Change in IDEC Application Process & Requirements

<p>No application required (NEW) for these programs;</p>	<p>No application; CCAP certification and requirements optional</p>	<p>Single 4 question verification application required w/full background check, CANTS and Sex Offender Registry attestation</p>	<p>Moving from multiple applications to one umbrella application aligned to CCAP.</p>	<p>Reduces outdated rules and administrative burden</p>
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Illustrative Example of an Entity with Programs across the 5 categories





 @idec_illinois

 @IllinoisDepartmentofEarlyChildhood

 @Illinois Department of Early Childhood

