


False Vs. Fact:

Here's What S.119, the ECE Profession Bill, Really Means for Early Childhood Educators

VTAEYC wants to make sure our workforce has the facts about what's in S.119. Questions about the bill? Stay informed! Visit vtaeyc.org to learn about updates and resources, and continue to bring your voice to the state's process of creating a recognized ECE profession.


FALSE: Registered homes (FCCH) must close if the director does not have an associate degree in early childhood education, or higher.

 **Fact: Nobody would need to close their program because they don't have a degree.**

Everyone working in a regulated program will receive a transition license so they can keep working.

The transition period between 2025-2033 provides flexible opportunities for people to earn qualifications at the pace and process that works for them. Job experience and professional development will count. The transition period also provides an offramp for early childhood educators near retirement.

FALSE: All early childhood educators will be required to pay up to \$550 in license fees annually.

 **Fact: Licenses would cost less and renew every two years, not annually.**

OPR proposes the following fees for licensure:

ECE I - Initial \$125; Renewal \$225


ECE II - Initial \$175; Renewal \$250

ECE III - Initial \$225; Renewal \$275

OPR is also requesting the State offset initial licensing fees.


If you hold an AOE teacher's license with ECE endorsement, you are exempt from also needing an ECE license to practice from OPR. You would only pay the fee for your AOE license.

MISLEADING: Vermont has already lost 180 childcare programs and 1,606 childcare slots since 2018.

 **Fact: This is old COVID-era data. It does not reflect changes since major system investment including Act 76, Student Loan Repayment Assistance Program, Youth Apprenticeships, credential bonuses, and more.**

According to data from CDD and First Children's Finance, the trend is the other way: more than 1,000 spaces (600 net) opened since Act 76 passed, and more programs opened than closed in 2024.

MISLEADING: All early childhood educators without a certificate in ECE will no longer be allowed to work as staff, even in licensed centers.

 **Fact: Nobody will be forced to stop working. In the future, early childhood educators**

will need to meet qualifications in order to be licensed to practice as an ECE I, II, or III. There is a transition period between 2025-2033, and flexible ways to show readiness. Experience and PD will count.

FALSE: An estimated 33% of current providers could be forced to close under the proposed legislation.

Fact: This data is not sound. The number comes from a misleading poll circulated on social media.

Facts are based on S.119 as introduced in 2025. Bills may change during the legislative process.

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Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children

Text link for S.119:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Workgroups/Senate%20Government%20Operations/Bills/S.119/Drafts,%20Amendments,%20and%20Legal%20Documents/S.119-Katie%20McLinn-As%20Introduced-3-28-2025.pdf>

Text link for OPR Report:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Early-Childhood-Education-Sunrise-Report.pdf>