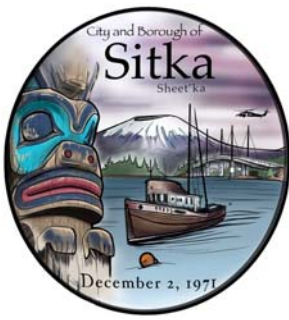


Sponsors: Himschoot and Knox

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

**I MOVE TO** approve Resolution 2022-14 on first and final reading supporting the Alaska State Legislature House Bill 149 "an act relating to allowing certain child day care providers to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining; and establishing the Child Day Care Provider Fund".



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members  
**From:** Assembly Members Himschoot and Knox  
**Date:** May 4, 2022  
**Subject:** Approval of Resolution 2022-14 supporting HB 149

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### **Background**

As part of the Early Childhood Coalition's work to alleviate aspects of the childcare crisis in Sitka a resolution was drafted to support HB 149. The assembly is being asked to support the resolution and submit it to our delegation in Juneau.

### **Analysis**

Functional, high quality, available and affordable childcare allows community members to participate in the workforce with the confidence their children are thriving in the care of professional childcare providers. One barrier to daycare centers providing more spaces is a lack of staff. HB 149 provides a number of measures at the state level that will support childcare staff such as benefits and higher wages. While childcare centers are not within the formal education system supported by city funding, they are vitally important to child development and the local economy. In this way high quality childcare can be considered within both the education and economic infrastructure responsibilities of the city.

### **Fiscal Note**

While there is no cost to this resolution there is great benefit to Sitka's childcare providers if HB 149 passes.

### **Recommendation**

Approve Resolution 2022-14.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA SUPPORTING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE BILL 149 “AN ACT RELATING TO ALLOWING CERTAIN CHILD DAY CARE PROVIDERS TO ORGANIZE FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING; AND ESTABLISHING THE CHILD DAY CARE PROVIDER FUND”

WHEREAS, House Bill 149 was introduced by Representative Zack Fields and co-sponsored by Representatives Hopkins, Story, Rasmussen, Ortiz, Tarr, Josephson, Spohnholz, Snyder, Tuck, and Senator Kawasaki; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 149 has passed the Senate Finance Committee and the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, child care is a vital infrastructure for Alaska and the City of Sitka and is key to a thriving economy; and

WHEREAS, childcare is a sector working to ensure all other sectors work while preparing our young children for school and life; and

WHEREAS, quality early childcare has lasting positive impacts on children including improved cognitive and social abilities, better math and language skills, increased school readiness, and higher graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, the positive impact is especially evident in children experiencing poverty; and

WHEREAS, compensation, benefits, and training are key in recruiting and maintaining qualified and experienced staff; and

WHEREAS, HB 149 establishes a Child Care Trust Fund providing financial support to the child care system for years to come; and

WHEREAS, HB 149 amplifies the collective voice of childcare workers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka strongly supports the passage of the Alaska State Legislature House Bill 149 "An Act relating to allowing certain child day care providers to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining; and establishing the child day care provider fund."

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sara Peterson, MMC  
Municipal Clerk

1<sup>st</sup> and final reading: 5/10/2022

Sponsors: Himschoot and Knox