

# FULL FAITH & CREDIT FOR TRIBAL SELF- REGULATED CHILD CARE 2026 Update



## REQUESTED ACTION

At the 2025 DCF Tribal Consultation meeting, DCF agreed to propose statutory change in relation to Full Faith and Credit acknowledging tribal self-regulated certification and licensing of child care providers for these programs to access Wisconsin Shares subsidy funding.

## 2025/2026 ACTION TAKEN

### **DCF Bill Drafting**

DCF worked with the Legislative Reference Bureau to draft legislation to provide access to Wisconsin Shares to tribally regulated child care programs. Copies of the draft bill were shared with Tribal Nations for their review and feedback.

### **Senate and Assembly Bills 710**

Senate Bill 710 was introduced on December 2, 2025. Assembly Bill 710 was introduced on December 3, 2025. The bills were introduced by Senators Testin, Ratcliff, Roys, and Spreitzer and Representatives Mursau, Armstrong, Behnke, Joers, Kurtz, Palmeri, Snyder, Spaude, Stroud, Subeck, and Udell.

A public hearing was held on December 27, 2025, for AB710. A public hearing was held on January 13, 2026, for SB 710. The bill was recommended to pass by the Committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Children and Families. The bill failed to pass this session pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1.

### **DCF Next Steps:**

- In partnership with Tribal Nations, continue to research implications for other child care policies and programming, such as Head Start and YoungStar, that may be impacted by any future proposed changes.
- Continue to maintain conversations with Tribal Nations surrounding implementation for any proposed changes.

## Timeline of Events

- April 2025 ★ DCF Tribal Consultation Meeting
- May 2025 ★ DCF policy and legal analysis
- July 2025 ★ Bill drafting process began with Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB)
- September 2025 ★ DCF meetings with Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Jeffrey Mursau re: bill sponsorship
- October 2025 ★ DCF meetings with committee chairs - Senator Jesse James and Representative Pat Snyder
- ★ Final bill draft received from LRB
- November 2025 ★ DCF provides bill sponsors with draft sponsorship memo language
- December 2025 ★ AB 710 and SB 710 introduced
- ★ Bill hearing in assembly committee
- January 2026 ★ Bill hearing in senate committee
- ★ Follow up meetings with assembly committee members
- February 2026 ★ Senate session end
- March 2026 ★ Assembly session end

### **Legislation Options:**

- Request consultation with the next DCF secretary to discuss collaboration for a future legislative session.
- Committee members could utilize processes available through the Special Committee on State Tribal Relations.
- Tribal Nations could choose to run the bill independently at a future legislative session.

