

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1034
Ways and Means

(Delegate Stinnett, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Child Care - Child Abuse and Neglect - Training Requirements

This bill requires for regulations adopted by the State Board of Education to mandate that child care providers in registered family child care homes and registered large family child care homes and licensees and staff of a child care center complete training on the detection and reporting of child abuse within 90 days of starting employment and annually thereafter. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The adoption of regulations can be accomplished with existing budgeted resources. As discussed below, the training standards under the required regulations generally codify current practice. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Family Child Care Homes and Large Family Child Care Homes

Generally, family child care homes and large family child care homes may not operate in the State unless they are registered. The State Board of Education is required to adopt regulations that relate to the registration of family child care homes and large family child care homes. A family child care home is a residence in which family child care is provided

for up to 8 children. A large family child care home is a residence in which family child care is provided for at least 9 children, but not more than 12 children.

Child Care Centers

Subject to limited exception, child care centers may not operate in the State unless they are licensed. The State Board of Education is required to adopt regulations that relate to the licensing and operation of child care centers. A child care center is an agency, institution, or establishment that, for part or all of a day, or on a 24-hour basis on a regular schedule, and at least twice a week, offers or provides child care to children who do not have the same parentage except as otherwise provided for in law or regulation. Rules and regulations adopted for the licensing and operation of child care centers must ensure the health of children in such centers by monitoring children for signs and symptoms of child abuse and instructing licensees and staff concerning child abuse detection and reporting.

Additional Comments: MSDE advises that child abuse and neglect training is already required for all child care staff and providers through the Licensing Branch's Basic Health and Safety training. This training is required for all individuals working with children in licensed child care centers, family child care homes, large family child care homes, letters of compliance facilities, and other related programs. Child care staff and providers must generally complete the training within 90 days of employment and then annually thereafter.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2026
jg/jkb Third Reader - April 6, 2026
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Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510