

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 1034  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Stinnett, *et al.*)

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**Child Care Entities - Child Abuse and Neglect - Training and Reporting Requirements**

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This bill requires a “provider” (*i.e.*, an individual who is employed by, contracts with, volunteers for, or otherwise works for a “child care entity”) to complete specified child abuse training under § 5-716 of the Family Law Article within six months after the initial date of employment and every two years thereafter. The bill also explicitly includes such a provider under the definition of “educator or human service worker” within Title 5, Subtitle 7 of the Family Law Article, which generally governs the reporting and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Likely none, as all child care staff and providers are already required to complete child abuse and neglect training, as discussed below.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** A “child care entity” is an entity that (1) provides child care services and (2) is licensed or regulated by the Division of Early Childhood Development within the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). By July 1, 2027, and each July 1 thereafter, a child care entity must certify to MSDE that each provider is in compliance with the training requirement. A provider who violates these requirements is subject to

(1) a corrective action plan; (2) suspension or termination of employment; or (3) suspension or revocation of the provider's license. Likewise, a child care entity that violates the bill's requirements is subject to the suspension or revocation of the entity's license or registration. An individual who is a provider for a child care entity on the bill's July 1, 2026 effective date must complete the required training by January 1, 2027.

## **Current Law:**

### *Reporting of Abuse or Neglect*

Each health care practitioner, police officer, or educator or human service worker acting in a professional capacity in the State who has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect (1) must notify the local department or appropriate law enforcement agency and (2) if acting as a staff member of a hospital, public health agency, child care institution, juvenile detention center, school, or similar institution, must immediately notify and give all information required to the head of the institution or the designee of the head.

### *Online Course for Mandatory Reporter Training*

The Department of Human Services must post on its website a free online course on the identification, prevention, and reporting of child abuse.

**State Expenditures:** 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 (BHS) 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. Under the bill, this timeline is altered such that the training must be completed within six months after initial employment and then every two years thereafter. Therefore, the bill establishes a reduced frequency of required training.

MSDE notes that creating a *separate* abuse and neglect training course may result in additional costs. However, the department intends to continue its existing BHS training, as it already generally conforms to the bill's requirements (including the proof of completion requirement). Moreover, MSDE already has protocols and regulations in place for enforcement actions against staff and providers who fail to complete the required training (including warning letters, compliance agreements, employment suspension, and suspension or revocation of provider licenses/registrations).

## **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  
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