

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 477

(Delegates Barnes and McCaskill)

Ways and Means

Education, Energy, and the Environment

State Department of Education - Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers - Regulatory Analysis

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to conduct a thorough analysis of the State’s regulatory requirements for child care facilities. MSDE must submit (1) by January 1, 2026, an interim report and (2) by September 1, 2026, a final report on the results to the Governor and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE can implement the bill’s requirements with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: In conducting the analysis, MSDE must pay particular attention to current regulations that limit the ability of a person to (1) register a family child care home or large family child care home; (2) receive a license to operate a child care center; or (3) operate a child care facility in a profitable manner while providing quality, affordable child care.

In conducting the analysis, MSDE must also, at a minimum, analyze the current regulatory framework governing (1) the staffing of child care facilities, including the requirements to work in child care and the supervisory requirements for child care staff; (2) the physical

requirements for child care facilities; and (3) the programs in place to support child care facilities.

Furthermore, MSDE must examine the framework that governs the regulation of child care and child care facilities in different states and regions and how they compare to those in the State. For each regulation examined, MSDE must determine whether the regulation results in or contributes to (1) a safer environment for children and child care facility employees; (2) a quality early childhood education; or (3) a significant impact on the opening or operation of child care facilities.

Current Law: 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.

Similarly, the State Board of Education must adopt rules and regulations for licensing and operating child care centers.

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 - February 3, 2025
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