

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

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

Senate Bill 672 (Senator A. Washington)  
 Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Prince George's County - Expanding Access to Early Childhood Education and Child Care**

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to develop an implementation and financing plan to expand access to high-quality early childhood education and child care in Prince George’s County for children from birth through three years of age. MSDE must consult with Prince George’s County and relevant State agencies. The plan must include an analysis of (1) the cost to parents, the county, and the State; (2) the workforce needs of early childhood education and child care providers to expand access; (3) the capacity of early childhood education and child care providers to serve more children; and (4) additional county and State revenue options to expand access. By December 1, 2026, MSDE must submit the plan to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the members of the Prince George’s County Delegation to the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$500,000 in FY 2027 only for contractual costs. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	500,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$500,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease*

**Local Effect:** Prince George’s County can consult with MSDE using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** The State oversees a variety of early education services that are provided to Maryland children and their families in cooperation with local governments, local school systems, and private child care providers. The [Division of Early Childhood](#) coordinates the State's early childhood care and education system and is composed of three subdivisions: (1) the Office of Child Care; (2) the Office of Early Learning and Instruction; and (3) the Office of Family Support Services.

**State Expenditures:** MSDE advises that meeting the bill's requirements necessitates contracting with an outside vendor, and accordingly anticipates general fund expenditures of \$500,000 in fiscal 2027 for this purpose. The vendor's responsibilities are to include leading required consultation efforts, as well as coordinating all activities related to the development of an implementation and financing plan.

MSDE further advises that the vendor will need to conduct a comprehensive child care market rate analysis, which will include collecting tuition and fee data from licensed providers Statewide; segmenting rates by provider type, region, age group, and quality rating; and determining the percentile of market rates for scholarship reimbursement. These findings are necessary to inform the development and implementation of the plan. In addition, a survey of the early childhood workforce in Prince George's County is needed to assess the current capacity to serve more children, along with an assessment of the unmet need for early child care and education in the county.

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## Additional Information

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 2026  
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