

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 628 (Delegate Burns)
Ways and Means

Family Law - Qualifications of Directors of Preschool Centers

This bill establishes qualifications for a director of a preschool center in statute, altering the existing qualifications established under Department of Human Resources (DHR) regulations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change would not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful for preschool center directors whose educational requirements would be affected by the bill.

Analysis

Bill Summary: For a preschool center with 20 or fewer children, the director must have completed: (1) one year of experience working under supervision primarily with preschoolers in a licensed child care center, nursery school, church-operated school, recreation and parks program, or similar setting; or (2) 6 semester hours or 90 clock hours, or the equivalent, of approved preemployment training or hold the child development associate credential issued by the Child Development Associate National Credentialing Program.

For a preschool center with 21 to 40 children, the director must have: (1) earned 60 semester hours from an accredited institution of higher learning; and (2) completed 6 semester hours or 90 clock hours or their equivalent of approved preemployment training

or hold their child development associate credential issued by the Child Development Associate National Credentialing Program.

For a preschool center with more than 40 children, the director must have: (1) attained an associate degree with approved courses in early childhood education or a bachelor's degree in any field; and (2) completed 6 semester hours or 90 clock hours, or the equivalent, of approved preemployment training or hold the child development associate credential issued by the Child Development Associate National Credentialing Program.

Current Law: DHR regulations set the following requirements for a preschool center director.

For a preschool center with 20 or fewer children, a director must complete: (1) one year of experience working under supervision primarily with preschoolers in a licensed child care center, nursery school, church-operated school, recreation and parks program, or similar setting; or (2) two years of experience caring for preschoolers as a registered family day care provider.

For a preschool center with 21 to 40 children, a director must have: (1) earned 60 semester hours from an accredited institution of higher learning; and (2) completed two years of experience working under supervision primarily with preschoolers in a licensed child care center, nursery school, church-operated school, recreation and parks program, or similar setting, or four years of experience caring for preschoolers as a registered family day care provider.

For a preschool center with more than 40 children, a director must have: (1) an associate degree with approved courses in early childhood education or a bachelor's degree in any field; and (2) complete two years of experience working under supervision primarily with preschoolers in a licensed child care center, nursery school, church-operated school, recreation and parks program, or similar setting, or four years of experience caring for preschoolers as a registered family day care provider.

A preschool center director may have responsibility for the entire child care center when the center enrolls both preschoolers and school-age children. When a child care center for school-age children enrolls any infants or toddlers or more than five children younger than kindergarten age, the center operator must provide a director that meets the requirements for both a preschool center director and a school-age center director.

Background: DHR estimates that at least 1,400 child care centers operating statewide would be affected by this bill. The number of preschool center directors in Maryland cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

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