

SB1000

Child Care business owner's frequently start a family child care home because they have young children of their own. That is how I started child care in 1983. Elected officials had a programs on the county level and the state level to encourage business owner's to increase the number of children they cared for.

The state worked for years and finally passed HB640 in 1989, increased child care from 6 children to 8 children including the provider's own children under the age of two. I nearly lost my house because the fire marshal decided to count the provider's children under the age of 6; ten minutes after the law was passed. I managed to get a fire code modification and was able to care for 8 client children.

The county changed the zoning regulations and encouraged business owner's to apply to care for more than 8 client children. It took me 9 years four properties, \$750,000 in cash and debt, and 6 special exception/conditional use zoning applications. I achieved expanding my child care business to 30 children.

Around 2005, OCC (office of child care) seemed to have a goal of reducing the number of residential child care businesses. Montgomery County had 1,200 family child care homes and the numbers quickly went down to 842. I went thru administrative hearings and increased my debt with attorney fees by about \$15,000 to protect my business. Currently, family child care homes have dropped to 782 in Montgomery County. I survived again.

In 2008, I had to invest \$50,000 in attorney fees and building costs to save my business again.

When the State takes over the child care business by creating unfair competition, taking the cost out of the taxpayer's pocket and/or passing the debt to our children; private business's will be hit hard like a tornado. Elected officials care and think that universal pre-k is a good idea. It's not. It's not for private businesses, for taxpayers and especially for the children.

What will happen though, is while the State tries to build the buildings, hire the teachers, increase the parking space by 300% for the teachers due to staff ratios, current business owner's will lose their business property and assets. And when the tide changes and the private sector is again asked to help by being private contractors to care for the kids, the devastation created by this bill will have few private business's left to help.

What you don't understand is while you want to help with child care; taking the profitable age group of the children age 3/4 and leaving the 50% customer base of infants and toddlers, we can't pay our bills with that age group and we will have to close.

Please note that while HB 640 and the regulations both state that the provider's children should be "counted" OCC actually subtracts the provider's children from the number in the MSDE/OCC certificate for family child care. There are 5,055 family child care homes, because the provider's children are subtracted instead of counted the number of children in family child care will be off by the provider's children, possibly 10,615 children you need to build a school for. (2.1 children per provider estimate)

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P.S. Potential business owner's will not be able to see the regulations on OCC's site, they are taking them off their site on February 28th.

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