



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 1100

DATE: March 4, 2022

SPONSOR: Delegates Queen and Solomon

ASSIGNED TO: Ways & Means and Appropriations

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey (leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT

Child Care Providers and Employees – Bonuses

House Bill 1100 mandates a \$16M appropriation to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget to be used for child care provider and employee bonuses. Under the bill, MSDE would use \$10M of the appropriation to award a \$1,000 retention bonus to each individual who, in FY24, holds a credential through the Maryland Child Care Credential Program and for each individual who earns such a credential in FY24 who does not also qualify for new hire bonus under the bill. The bill directs MSDE to use \$4M of the appropriation to award a \$500 new hire bonus to each individual who, during FY24, begins employment in the State as a child care provider, or with a child care provider, and commits to remaining employed as a provider or by a provider for at least six months, and an additional new hire bonus to each individual who receives the aforementioned new hire bonus and who earns a credential through the Maryland Child Care Credential Program. As drafted, the bill also directs MSDE to use \$2M of the appropriation to award a \$500 hiring assistance bonus to each individual hired during FY24 by a child care provider that participates in the Child Care Scholarship Program. The bills require proof of eligibility to be provided to MSDE for each of the bonuses.

If enacted, House Bill 1100 would aid child care workers and providers at a critical time when recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19 has not fully been realized for many providers who are still struggling to keep their doors open. When surveyed by the County in the fall of 2021, nearly one third of providers who responded said that they were unlikely to be able to continue operating in 6 months if conditions remained the same as they were at the time. The bonuses available under House Bill 1100 would directly assist providers with attracting and retaining staff and easing the overall burden of the costs of remaining open.

Since the onset of the pandemic, Montgomery County has allocated over \$21M to supporting child care programs in an effort to maintain an adequate supply of child care providers while parents balanced work, virtual learning for school-aged children, and other uncertainties during the pandemic. Despite these efforts, child care workers and providers across the state remain in need of the financial support offered by House Bill 1100; Montgomery County respectfully urges the committees to issue a favorable report.