

SB 280_DoD Childcare_Support.pdf

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Position: FAV

111 Ellershaw Court
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Senate Education, Energy, and
Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 280 – Support

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

As the parent of a child in a DoD-certified daycare, I am pleased to support SB 280, “Child Care Providers – Registration and Licensing – Exemptions.”

When I was three months pregnant in October 2020, my husband and I put our daughter on the waitlist for a DoD-certified childcare program in the area, with a requested start date of August 2021. As a professor at USNA, my husband was eligible to send Annalise to this program. We wanted this option because programs certified by the Department of Defense have the highest standards—about 97% have national accreditation, compared with 9% of civilian centers. Childcare providers at programs run by the DoD have higher wages, and fees are determined on a sliding scale based on need. It has been a template for federal legislation to create a national network of federally supported locally administered childcare options.

Due to the demand for services, a slot did not open for our daughter until she turned one, in May 2022. Our experience is not uncommon. Military and DoD civilian families still face long waiting lists for childcare, which can be especially stressful when a family is relocating new a new military base or federal work location.

I can attest to the high quality provided by DoD childcare programs, which has been evident since our daughter’s first day. We have consistently heard the same from other parents, whether their child is enrolled at a facility or in a family childcare home. I fully support this legislation, to remove an unnecessary layer of regulation, which will hopefully allow more programs to open in our State. For these reasons I urge a favorable report for SB 280.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Allison Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allison Taylor

SB 280_Child Care Providers_Registration and Lisc

Uploaded by: Andrew Griffin

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Favorable

Senate Bill 280

Child Care Providers – Registration and Licensing – Exemptions

Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 6,400 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

SB 280 exempts specified childcare centers, homes and facilities from certain state childcare registration and licensing requirements if they are located on certain federal property or certified by a branch of the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Chamber believes that the exemption of these facilities from additional Maryland licensing procedures is a necessary step to encourage access to childcare facilities that promote the wellbeing and effectiveness of Maryland's workforce and their employers.

While the Chamber certainly believes that all childcare facilities in Maryland should be held to rigorous standards, the facilities that are specified in this legislation are located on federal property and certified by a branch of the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Coast Guard, which have their own rigorous standards to ensure the safety and security of children in their care.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **favorable report** on SB 280.

MDCHAMBER.ORG

60 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis 21401 | 410-269-0642

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Uploaded by: Christopher Arnold

Position: FAV



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

February 22, 2023

**Maryland General Assembly
Senate Committee on Education, Energy and the Environment
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401**

**Senator Brian J. Feldman
Chair**

**Remarks of
Christopher R. Arnold
Mid-Atlantic Region Liaison
United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office**

**Support of: SB 280 (Child Care Providers - Registration and Licensing - Exemptions)
Testimony**

Testimony

Chairman and honorable members of the Ways and Means Committee, the Department of Defense thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the policies reflected in Senate Bill 280. The proposed approach would assist with meeting the demands of military communities for family childcare services. We will separately transmit a letter from some of our installation commanders to provide further edification on this important issue.

My name is Christopher Arnold and I am the Mid-Atlantic Regional Liaison at the United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. We represent the Department and establish relationships with state leaders across the country who are concerned for troops and their families' welfare by harmonizing state and federal law and regulation on policy problems of national significance. These are identified by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, and the National Guard Bureau as areas where states can play a crucial role.

Taking care of our people remains the top priority of the Department of Defense and is at the center of our National Defense Strategy.¹ The Department established the Family Child Care program to expand child care availability and to assist in meeting the diverse needs of military families. Family Child Care providers offer military families reliable and personalized care in a homelike setting on and off installations, and nearly all providers are spouses of currently serving members of the armed forces.²

¹ Terri Moon Cronk, Austin Outlines His Top Three Priorities on Defense, People, Teamwork, United States Department of Defense, March 5, 2021, <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2526532/austin-outlines-his-top-three-priorities-on-defense-people-teamwork/>

² Licensure Exemptions for Military Family Child Care Providers, *United States Department of Defense*, <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/key-issue/licensure-exemptions-for-military-family-child-care-providers>

Military spouses provide the strong foundation upon which their loved ones in uniform stand, and both our communities and nation rely on their resilience. Military service members relocate to new duty stations every few years, and the Department recognizes the importance of providing military families with access to quality, affordable child development programs, and is committed to meeting the increased demand for child care across the nation.³

Family Child Care providers are certified via the military departments and are the largest contributor to the military services' ability to deliver 24-hour and emergency child care needs.⁴ Additionally, some Family Child Care providers offer specialized care for unique mission-related needs in homes both on and off the installation.⁵

Once certified, Family Child Care providers must complete annual training and a competency based comprehensive professional development program similar to installation child development program personnel.⁶ When moving with their service member, Family Child Care providers do not have to complete additional training or another background check when they arrive at their new installation, unless their certification is due for renewal.⁷

The Family Child Care program is designed to ensure the highest standards of quality and safety are met in family child care homes. The certification process is widely recognized as one of the most stringent in the country.⁸ Standards set by the Department and the military services ensure strict oversight of service providers, to include background checks, monthly inspections, and unannounced visits.⁹ Monitoring of Family Child Care providers is conducted on a regular basis, during all hours of operation, and providers are required to maintain information as it relates to their background checks, inspections, insurance, training records, and visitation logs.¹⁰

As military spouses relocate every two to three years, due to housing availability, they may end up living off base at their new duty station and be unable to continue with their businesses until

³ According to the Government Accountability Office, child care research suggests that quality child care is tied to positive outcomes for children, including improved cognitive, social, and language development. DOD has taken steps to create and maintain quality care, including by establishing programmatic and oversight requirements and developing new staff training. For example, while optional for most civilian centers, DOD requires its child development centers, school-age programs, and most community-based providers receiving DOD-subsidized fee assistance, to be nationally accredited. DOD has also recently implemented a new child care curriculum and research-informed online training program for staff at its child development centers.

⁴ Report to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on In-Home Child Care Licensures, *United States Department of Defense*, 2022

⁵ In both the Air Force and the Army, these programs are designed to provide overnight, weekend, and holiday child care for those members assigned to work for more than 24 hours in the field.

⁶ DODI 6060.02, "Child Development Programs (CDPs)", *United States Department of Defense*, September 20, 2020.

⁷ See *supra* at 2.

⁸ GAO-23-105518, "Military Child Care: DOD Efforts to Provide Affordable, Quality Care for Families," *Government Accountability Office*, February 2, 2023, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-105518>.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Family Child Care Providers are also required complete 40 hours of training and orientation, which occurs prior to working with children. Stated orientation, upon completion, is then documented for each provider, and includes: developmentally appropriate activities and environmental observations; age appropriate guidance and discipline techniques; applicable regulations, policies, and procedures; child safety and fire prevention; child abuse prevention, identification, and reporting; nutrition; health and sanitation; and parent and family relations.

they obtain a state license.¹¹ Many of our families rely on two incomes, and spousal unemployment is among the leading causes of decreased readiness and retention.¹²

By exempting Family Child Care providers from licensure and registration that is duplicative of the certification they receive from the military services, states such as Maryland have the opportunity to enhance the quality of life and economic security of both the providers and military families seeking qualified child care options.¹³ If permitted by their service's regulations, under Senate Bill 280, this approach would allow them to work immediately after being certified, inspected and approved by the new installation commander, to provide care to the children of military families, pursuant to Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02.¹⁴

According to a recent report, the Department currently needs 1,433 family child care providers to meet the demands of military communities.¹⁵ But in fiscal year 2021, the department reported having only 727 available providers, an almost 50% deficit, with 2,700 children receiving care in family child care homes.¹⁶

To further expand employment opportunities for military spouses, the Department supports policies that will ease the administrative burdens for military spouses who must go through the often challenging and frustrating process of relocating.¹⁷ The Department appreciates the ongoing efforts and support of the Maryland Division of Early Childhood regarding the Family Child Care program and looks forward to working together to ensure we address the challenges of military child care.

We appreciate the opportunity to discuss the policies reflected in Senate Bill 280 and are especially grateful to the bill Senator Dawn Gile, as well as to the members of Education, Energy and the Environment Committee for considering these issues.

¹¹ The military services have implemented certification transfer programs for Family Child Care providers who move from one installation to another due to a service member's permanent change of station. The provider's background checks and training transfer to the new duty station, and the installation grants certification upon completion of the home inspections.

¹² Rosemary Williams, et. al, "Military spouse unemployment," *Deloitte*, 2021, <https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/industry/public-sector/military-spouse-unemployment.html>

¹³ The military services' Family Child Care programs are intended to support the mission requirements of the installation and are for use only by active-duty military personnel, DoD civilians, reserve component military personnel on active duty or inactive duty training status, combat related wounded warriors, surviving spouses of military members who died from a combat related incident, those acting in loco parentis for the dependent child of an otherwise eligible member, eligible employees of DoD contractors, and others as authorized on a space available basis.

¹⁴ If a Family Child Care provider wanted to expand their scope of business beyond military dependents and outside the scope of the Department of Defense Instruction, the provider would subsequently obtain a state license.

¹⁵ Report to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on In-Home Child Care Licensures, United States Department of Defense, 2022

¹⁶ Office of Military Family Readiness Policy, "2021 Child and Youth Program Annual Summary of Operations Report," *United States Department of Defense*.

¹⁷ "Addressing the Decreasing Number of Family Child Care Providers in the United States," *National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance*, September 2019, <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/addressing-decreasing-number-family-child-care-providers-united-states>.

As always, as liaison to the Mid-Atlantic, I stand ready to answer whatever questions you may have.

Yours etc.,

CHRISTOPHER R. ARNOLD
Mid-Atlantic Region Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office

2023_SB280_MSDETestimony_Support_WRITTEN_FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Dayhoff

Position: FAV



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

BILL:	Senate Bill (SB) 280	DATE:	February 22, 2023
SUBJECT:	Child Care Providers - Registration and Licensing – Exemptions	COMMITTEE:	Education, Energy, and the Environment
POSITION:	Support		
CONTACT:	Justin Dayhoff 410-767-0449 justin.dayhoff@maryland.gov		

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) supports Senate Bill (SB) 280 – *Child Care Providers - Registration and Licensing - Exemptions*. This bill amends current Statute that requires the State Board to adopt rules and regulations for the licensing and operating of child care centers, family child care homes and large family child care homes.

The proposed legislation would exclude child care providers that are certified to operate by a branch of the U.S. Department of Defense and operate on military bases or federal land from the regulations enacted as required under §9.5-303 and §9.5-403 of the Education Article. Currently, 13.A.16.01.01 governing child care centers includes this exemption for child care centers operated by the federal government or on federal land. The proposed legislation, if enacted, would extend the exclusion to family child care homes and large family child care homes certified as a Family Child Care Provider by a branch of the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Maryland State Department of Education supports this legislation without amendments. However, MSDE would like to ensure that the Department of Defense (DoD) federal monitoring would still apply to the private child care providers operating on federal properties. If not, MSDE will need to continue to monitor private providers who are co-located on federal properties to ensure child health and safety. In addition, DoD federal monitoring will need to occur for family child care programs that are located outside of DoD military bases and installations

MSDE respectfully requests that you consider this letter of support as you deliberate Senate Bill 280. Please contact Justin Dayhoff, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Financial Planning, Operations, and Strategy by phone at 410-767-0439, or by email at justin.dayhoff@maryland.gov for additional information.

Child Care Providers

Uploaded by: Lynn Nash

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland Senate
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

SB 280 Child Care Providers – Registration and Licensing - Exemptions - Request for Favorable Report

Dear Chairman Feldman and Honorable Members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

As the Maryland Military Coalition's Communication Director, I am requesting your **favorable report** on SB 280. For the record, my name is CAPTAIN Lynn Nash. I am a retired nurse, who completed over 30 years of active-duty service in both the Army and the U.S. Public Health Service. I am well acquainted with the issue. As a military parent, I used on-base childcare when my children were young, and as a Community Health Nurse, it was my job to conduct training for staff as well as to do frequent unannounced inspections of both child care centers and privately operated family homes.

This bill provides for the exemption of certain family childcare homes, large family childcare homes, and childcare centers located on certain federal property or certified by a branch of the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Coast Guard from certain registration and licensing requirements for childcare providers in the state; and generally relating to registration and licensing requirements for childcare providers.

Here are some facts that should grab your attention:

- The [National Database of Childcare Prices](#), part of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, offers the most comprehensive look yet at how child care costs vary across 2,360 counties in 47 states.
- In a report released earlier this month, the average cost for parents with young children in Montgomery County, where I live, was **15.6% of their total income**. The report **calls these prices as "untenable for families"**.

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- Child care prices were consistently higher for infant care, with the median price for one child in center-based infant care ranging from **\$7,461** in small counties **to \$15,417** in very large counties.
- Among home-based providers, infant care ranged from **\$5,824** in small counties **to \$9,892** in very large counties.
- Among preschool-aged children, center-based prices *per child* ranged from **\$6,239** in small counties **to \$11,050** in very large counties.
- Home-based child care prices ranged from **\$5,541** in small counties to **\$9,019** (\$10,045 in very large counties).
- The burden is **even higher for families with multiple children in before- and after-school care or center-based child care**. The analysis showed **29 percent of families with children under 6 have two or more in that age-group**.
- **High child care costs are keeping some families — especially women — out of the labor market**, the Women’s Bureau report noted.
- The analysis found that even a 10 percent increase in child care costs causes a 1 percentage point decrease in moms in the workforce. A 50 percent increase dropped the number of employed mothers by 2 percentage points, and in counties where child care costs more than doubled, maternal employment dropped 4 percentage points

In her introduction to the house version of this bill, Delegate Patterson gave the figure that 23% of relocating military families are unable to find childcare. This difficulty often means that the spouse, cannot work outside the home, limiting the income of the family further.

Just this week, the [2021 Active-Duty Spouses Survey](#) results were released. But before I tell you about the survey, I want to share a little-known fact. The Department of Defense provides a reduced fee structure for multiple children under care in their Child Development Centers. This reduced rate is pro-rated based on the number of children and family income. The number of available spaces is directly related to the number of available child care providers who must maintain stringent ratios of children to providers.

From the 2021 Survey:

- 38% of all spouses with children at home routinely used child care
- Of those 11% for children under 1 (highest cost); 12% for children 1-2 (2nd highest cost); 33% for children 2-5
- **One of four spouses with children at home used civilian care without military fee assistance**, because there were not enough spaces for their children to attend
- A PCS move in the past 12 months decreased the odds of child care use among active duty spouses, again, because of limited vacancies.
- **During the pandemic, just over half of spouses with children at home who routinely used child care arrangements reported that children were not able to attend their usual child care**

As Mr. Arnold has noted, not only does military child care fill the need, but it also results in positive outcomes for the children in the form of cognitive, social and language development. However, the numbers of family providers **needed in Maryland is almost 1,500**.

As an Army child care trainer and inspector, I can speak to the standards of quality and safety. DoD providers receive MORE training than the standard provider licensed in Maryland. They are trained, required to maintain careful records and inspected frequently. I have compiled a comparison table attached to this testimony. **In over 10 years, I never had a single center or family home found to be unsatisfactory—that's how good they are.**

Requiring a DoD trained provider to submit to additional training and certification in Maryland is time consuming and financially difficult. Our providers need to come to the state, get their homes ready and start caring for children, especially in the case of junior service member spouses, where that 2nd income is necessary in high-cost Maryland, where base housing is limited and housing “on the economy” can easily cost over \$2,500/mo.

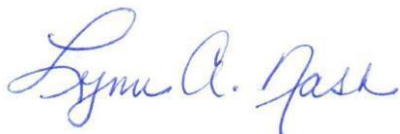
The availability of safe, affordable child care is not only a recruitment issue, but also a retention issue. Service members need to know that no matter what, their kids are safe and well-cared for.

As Mr. Arnold pointed out, dual certification is duplicative. If permitted to function in accordance with their Service's regulations, providers would be able to work immediately after being re-certified and approved by the local installation commander. **This would be a win-win.**

The Maryland Military Coalition, is a **voluntary**, non-partisan **organization representing 19 veteran service organizations**, who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men, women and their families. The Coalition ***strongly supports*** Senate Bill 280 – Child Care Provider – Licensing and Registration - Exemption and asks for your ***favorable report***.

Thank you to Senator Gile for sponsoring this important legislation. It drives whether **service members join and stay in uniform**. We appreciate her leadership in this critical area and look forward to continuing to work with her and Delegate Patterson on this issue.

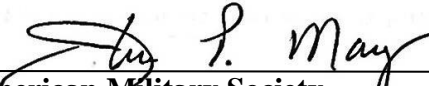
Respectfully,

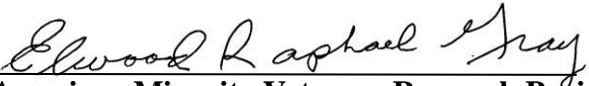


Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

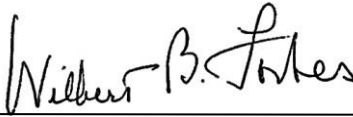

Air Force Sergeants Association


American Military Society


American Minority Veterans Research Project


Association of the United States Navy



Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service


Disabled American Veterans



Distinguished Flying Cross Association


Fleet Reserve Association


Jewish War Veterans of the USA


Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association


Military Officers Association of America


Military Order of the Purple Heart


Montford Point Marines of America


National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Reserve Organization of America


Society of Military Widows


Veterans of Foreign Wars

Comparison of Maryland and DoD Child Care Requirements

Policy Issues

POLICY ISSUES	Maryland	DoD
Who is in Charge?	Dept. of Education	Child Development Services/Installation Commander
Source of Information	Title 13A STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; Subtitle 15 FAMILY CHILD CARE; Chapter 06 Provider Requirements	AR 608-10 dtd 11 May 2017
In home interview (If FCC)		X
At least 18 y.o.	X	X plus High School Diploma
Face to Face Orientation	X	X
Registration	X	X
Emergency Plan	X	X
Evacuating the home; practice 1 X mo		X
Sheltering in place; 2 x year		X
Contacting Parents/ local EMS 2 x year		X
Special needs		X
Evacuation of sleeping children		X
Designated substitute 18 or older	X	X
Environmental review	X	X
Meets fire codes	X	X
Lactation room	X	X
Lead Free	X	X
Toilet and Sink Accessible to kids	X	X
Telephone	X	X
Clean – no infestation	X	X
Enclosed, ample outdoor space	X	X
Criminal background check	X	X (See Table 2-1)
> 18 in home	X	X all 12 years and older
Paid substitute	X	X
Child & adult abuse check	X	X
Medical evaluation each resident	Only if childcare respons.	X
Ratios: Under two	2:1 unless completed 3 sem/45 hours addl training care of children <2	Centers (per room) 2:1 ≤6 wks (NB) max 6 4:1 6 wks – 12 mo. max 8 5:1 12 mo – 24 mo max 10 7:1 24 mo – 3 yrs max 14 10:1 3 – 5 yrs max 20 15:1 school age max 30
Maximum Occupancy Family Home	8 children under 13	Family Child Care Homes 6:1 4 wks – 12 years max 6 3:1 NB/Infant/Toddler max 3 8:1 School age max 8

POLICY ISSUES (Continued)	Maryland	DoD
Plan/post schedule of daily activities		X
Include language & literacy	X	X
Mathematical thinking	X	X
Scientific thinking	X	X
Social studies	X	X
Creative arts and dramatic play	X	X
Gross and small motor skills	X	X
Outdoor play morning/afternoon	X	X
Periods of rests	X	X
Limits on screen time (< than 2 no passive technology; > 2 no more than 30 min/week)	X	X
First Aid Kit	X	X
Food and snacks. Supplies all beverages and milk	Provided by child's family or provider	X – All food and drinks provided by provider
Building inspections & permits	X	X
In-home inspections (fire, safety, health & sanitation)		X
Fees	X	X
Discipline policy	X	X
Presence of pets in home	X	X
Use of Volunteers	X	X
If overnight, sleeping arrangements	X	X
Unannounced inspections		4 x year

DOD Fees: Multiple child reductions of 20% or less may be offered when more than one child in a family requires center-based care. The reductions are given on the less expensive form of care. In some areas, a pro-rated fee structure *may* also be in effect in family child care homes.

Training Requirements

	Maryland	DoD
Individual Development Plan	X	X
<u>Within two years of application</u>	Entry 24 hours	90 clock hours
Child Dev. Curriculum	4 hours	Infant; toddlers; pre-school; school-age
Health	4 hours	
Safety & Nutrition	4 hours	
Special Needs	4 hours	
Professionalism	4 hours	
Community	4 hours	
Basic First Aid – American Red Cross or equiv	X	X
CPR	X	X
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	within 5 years	X
Supporting Breastfeeding	X	X
Emergency/Disaster Planning	X	X
Medication Administration	X	X
Americans with Disabilities Act	3 hours	X
	+ 18 hours approved by office	
Behavior management techniques		
Child abuse identification and reporting		X
Child abuse and neglect prevention and response		X
Child development norms and principles		X
Child health and nutrition		X
Child safety practices		X
Curriculum development for infants; toddlers; pre-school aged; school-aged children		X
Food service techniques		X
Observation/interviewing/screening		X
Parent education		X
Parent involvement		X
Sanitation practices		X
Sick child care/HIV		X
Space utilization for child activity areas		X
Special needs		X
Techniques working with infants; toddlers; pre-school and school aged children		X
Volunteer management		X
OR Assoc. Degree with 15 semester hours of early childhood or elementary education course work	X	OR Child Development Associate Credential
OR BS in Early Childhood Education or Elementary Education	X	
***Note: The MD Dept. of Education accepts DoD training modules for child care providers		

CONTINING EDUCATION TRAINING		
	Maryland	DoD
CPR/First Aid/SIDS update		Every year
Health & Safety	By end of 12 mo.	
	12 hours (6 in core)*	24 hours

*Does NOT include SIDS training

Substitute requirements in Maryland: Medical evaluation within the last 12 months; state criminal background check; “presents no risk to the health, safety or welfare of children”; **Orientation** to location of the telephone and emergency numbers; first aid supplies; child emergency forms; medication administration information for each child; modified diet information; emergency evacuation procedures; permissible and appropriate child discipline procedures; authorized child release procedures; procedures for document and reporting child injuries. See 13A.15.06.03

Substitutes do not have to complete any minimal training

Additional adult requirements in Maryland: 18 years old; attends an information session in the office concerning the requirements of this subtitle for care of children less than 2; medical report within 12 months; background check; CPR and basic first aid; SIDS training within last 5 years; office approval. See 13A.15.06.04

Additional adults do not have to complete any minimal training

Volunteer requirements in Maryland: “presents no risk to the health, safety or welfare of children”; child health and safety orientation; applied for a background check; must be accompanied by provider, substitute or add'l adult; if less than 18 may not be permitted to work with a child who is less than 2. See 13A.15.06.05

Volunteers do not have to complete any minimal training except a child health and safety orientation

DOD Background Checks

Table 2-1

Records screening requirements — Continued

Name of check	Agency/office	Timeframe
Army Central Registry	Medical Treatment facility (Chairperson, Family Advocacy Case Review Committee)	Prior to employment or provision of care. (CDC) Annually (FCC)
Local Military Police (MP)	Provost Marshal	Prior to employment or provision of care. (CDC) Annually (FCC)
Criminal Investigation Division Records Check to include Defense Central Investigative Index (DCII) Check	United States Criminal Investigation Command (USACIDC)	Prior to employment or LOSS for employees ⁴ Annually (FCC)
Civilian Law Enforcement Records Check ¹	Provost Marshal	Prior to employment or provision of care.
Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Control Program	Drug/Alcohol	Prior to employment or provision of care. (CDC) Annually (FCC)
National Agency Check (NAC) ² (NAF employees)	Civilian Personnel Office	Completed during first 6 months of employment ⁴ .
National Agency Check Investigation (NACI) ² (NAF employees)	Civilian Personnel Office	Completed during first 6 months of employment ⁴ .
Housing Office ³	Family Housing Officer/Building coordinator	Prior to provision of care.
Sponsor Unit Commander ³	Sponsor Unit Commander	Prior to provision of care.
Crime control Act— State Criminal History Repository (SCHAR) ² Fingerprint Check through identification Division of FBI ²	Civilian Personnel Office Civilian Personnel Office (included as part of NAC/NACI check)	Prior to employment or with LOSS ⁴ Prior to employment or with LOSS ⁴

Notes:

Volunteers may be placed in CDS systems prior to completion of background checks since they always work with CDS employees or provider and are never left alone with children.

¹ Within United States only. If obtainable from local police authorities.

² Applies to employees only. Not applicable to FCC providers, FCC family members, CDS Volunteers and youth applicants.

³ Applies to FCC providers, substitute FCC providers, FCC family members age and older and other authorized individuals residing in the FCC home only.

⁴ Line of Sight Supervision (LOSS). New personnel may be hired/contracted conditionally pending completion of background checks, provided they are under Line of Sight Supervision at all time child occupied areas monitored by a cleared employee will also satisfy the LOSS requirement.

Child Care Providers

Uploaded by: Lynn Nash

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

Statement of Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director

SB 280 - Child Care Providers - Registration and Licensing - Exemptions

February 22, 2023

FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Feldman and Honorable Members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

As the Maryland Military Coalition's Communication Director, I am requesting your **favorable report** on SB 280. For the record, my name is CAPTAIN Lynn Nash. I am a retired nurse, who completed over 30 years of active-duty service in both the Army and the U.S. Public Health Service. I am well acquainted with the issue. As a military parent, I used on base childcare when my children were young, and as a Community Health Nurse, it was my job to conduct training for staff as well as to do frequent unannounced inspections of both child care centers and privately operated family homes

In my written testimony I provide statistics on the cost of childcare. It's high. In Montgomery County where I live, families are paying 15.6% of their total income on childcare. The prices vary by age of the child and location where the child is being cared for.

- Infant care - \$7,461 – over \$15,000 **per child** in a center; \$5,824 to almost \$10,000 in a private home
- Pre-school - \$6,239 to over \$11,00 **per child** in a center; and \$5,441 to \$9,000 in a home
- Twenty-nine (29) percent of families have two or more kids under six.

Military families move on average every 2 to 3 years. In her introduction to the house version of this bill, Delegate Patterson gave the figure that 23% of relocating military families are unable to find childcare. This difficulty often means that the spouse, cannot work outside the home, limiting the income of the family further.

You will soon hear from Mr. Arnold from the Defense Service Liaison Office who will talk about the positive benefits of DoD care. I totally agree. I'm here to tell you that a Service-trained and

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certified provider has MORE training than the average MD-trained provider. I've produced a comparison document for you which can be found in my written testimony. The document examines and compares the two systems from both a policy standpoint as well as training. For example, in Maryland, a provider can start with only 24 hours of training in six core areas, where a DoD trained provider must have 90 clock hours of training. In Maryland, a provider can take a full year to complete the remainder of their training, an additional 18 hours—for a total of 42 hours. Maryland also requires only 12 hours of continuing education every year versus 24 in the DoD program.

I inspected both Center-based and family child care homes locally at four different duty stations as well as served on the European Command Inspection Team. In 1995 I was requested and joined the National Inspection team and traveled all over the East Coast primarily, inspecting DoD facilities and family child care homes. In the over 10 years, where I trained and inspected, not a single center or family home was found unsatisfactory.

I urge you to avoid the duplicative requirement of dual certification, and allow child care providers to continue to function under their Service's regulations, to return to work immediately after re-certification and inspection by the new base commander.

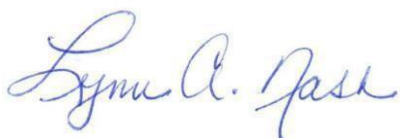
Available childcare is a recruitment and retention issue—Service members need to know that their kids are safe and well cared for as well as a quality-of-life issue.

The Maryland Military Coalition, is a **voluntary**, non-partisan **organization representing 19 veteran service organizations**, who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men, women and their families. The Coalition ***strongly supports*** Senate Bill 280 – Child Care Provider Exemption and asks for your ***favorable report***.

Thank you to Senator Gile for sponsoring this important legislation. It drives whether **service members join the service and STAY in the service**. We appreciate her leadership in this critical area and look forward to continuing to work with her and Delegate Patterson for passage of their bills.

Thank you.

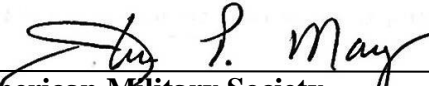
Respectfully,

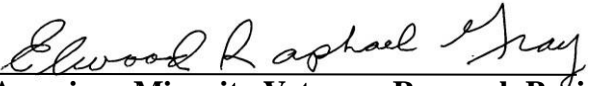


Lynn A. Nash

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

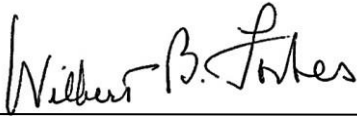

Air Force Sergeants Association


American Military Society


American Minority Veterans Research Project


Association of the United States Navy



Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service


Disabled American Veterans



Distinguished Flying Cross Association


Fleet Reserve Association


Jewish War Veterans of the USA


Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association


Military Officers Association of America


Military Order of the Purple Heart


Montford Point Marines of America


National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Reserve Organization of America


Society of Military Widows


Veterans of Foreign Wars

DG_Final Written Testimony_SB280.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Gile

Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of SB280
Child Care Providers - Registration and Licensing - Exemptions

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Distinguished Members of the Senate
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

Problem

There is a child care crisis in Maryland and around the country. There are not enough providers, yet median hourly pay is \$11.59.¹ Despite these low salaries, Maryland families pay an average of \$855 per month for 4-year-old care and \$1,278 per month for infant care, according to the Economic Policy Institute.² To make matters worse, 6,957 licensed family child care (FCC) programs closed across the country between December 2019 and March 2021, representing a 10% loss in licensed FCC programs.³ Maryland has taken steps to address access and affordability issues in child care, but more needs to be done.

Background

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) faces similar challenges when it comes to providing child care to service members and other DOD employees. The DOD child care system originated in the 1970s, with informal efforts on military bases to provide military families with ad hoc, part-time care. In 1989, the Military Child Care Act was enacted to improve the quality, safety, availability, and affordability of military child care.

According to a 2023 U.S. Government Accountability Office report, approximately 49,300 children were enrolled in DOD's on-base child development centers (CDC), 24,700 children were enrolled in DOD's school-age care programs, and 2,700 children were receiving care in DOD FCC homes.⁴ When on-base care is not available at certain locations, or service members' homes are not located near a base, DOD offers fee assistance to families who obtain care at eligible civilian child care providers.

¹ <https://cscce.berkeley.edu/workforce-index-2020/states/maryland/>

² <https://www.epi.org/child-care-costs-in-the-united-states/#/MD>

³ [https://info.childcareaware.org/hubfs/2022-03-FallReport-FINAL%20\(1\).pdf](https://info.childcareaware.org/hubfs/2022-03-FallReport-FINAL%20(1).pdf)

⁴ <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-23-105518.pdf>

By and large, DOD facilities have more vigorous safety and training requirements than civilians ones. Civilian child care programs generally must adhere to state licensing standards, and may also choose to pursue accreditation, which focuses on the quality of care. For accreditation, national accrediting organizations establish and use quality standards (e.g., related to staff training and support, leadership and management, or curricula) to assess the quality of child care programs. While only 9 percent CDCs in the U.S. were accredited in 2019, DOD data showed 97 percent of DOD CDCs were.⁵ Within DOD, child care facilities are subject to federal statutory requirements, including an accreditation requirement for all CDCs, required training elements for staff, and inspection requirements. Please see Appendix I for a full comparison of Maryland and DOD child care requirements.

Service members are often required to move to new locations, sometimes making change-of-station moves every 2 to 3 years, which can disrupt child care and work arrangements. Service members also work non-traditional hours and may be deployed with relatively little notice. Service members rely on a child care environment that caters to their needs.

As the Fiscal Note states, family child care homes, large family child care homes, and child care centers may not operate in the State unless they are registered or licensed. For military spouses who move to Maryland (often because of their spouse's change-of-station), they must go through Maryland's duplicative child care licensure process, despite already having credentials that exceed Maryland's requirements. This can delay their ability to start working and stifle the supply of much-needed military child care providers. As stated above, when the DOD cannot meet its own child care needs through its network, it will offer a fee for service members to purchase child care in a civilian setting, exacerbating Maryland's child care shortage.

Solution – SB280

This bill would help increase the supply of child care providers and speed up the process for military families to secure gainful employment. SB280 would exempt DOD FCC facilities from Maryland licensure requirements if the FCC is located on a military installation or if it is certified as an FCC Provider by a branch of the DOD or the U.S. Coast Guard. I am offering a technical amendment that clarifies that the children served by these facilities are military dependents only and that an installation commander has the discretion to determine which military dependents may be served.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 280.

⁵ Ibid.

Appendix I: Comparison of Maryland and DoD Child Care Requirements

	Maryland	DoD
Who is in Charge?	Dept. of Education	Child Development Services/Installation Commander
Source of Information	Title 13A STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; Subtitle 15 FAMILY CHILD CARE; Chapter 06 Provider Requirements	AR 608-10 dtd 11 May 2017
In home interview (If FCC)		X
At least 18 y.o.	X	X plus High School Diploma
Face to Face Orientation	X	X
Registration	X	X
Emergency Plan	X	X
Evacuating the home; practice 1 X mo		X
Sheltering in place; 2 x year		X
Contacting Parents/ local EMS 2 x year		X
Special needs		X
Evacuation of sleeping children		X
Designated substitute 18 or older	X	X
Environmental review	X	X
Meets fire codes	X	X
Lactation room	X	X
Lead Free	X	X
Toilet and Sink Accessible to kids	X	X
Telephone	X	X
Clean – no infestation	X	X
Enclosed, ample outdoor space	X	X
Criminal background check	X	X (See Table 2-1)
> 18 in home	X	X all 12 years and older
Paid substitute	X	X
Child & adult abuse check	X	X
Medical evaluation each resident	Only if childcare respons.	X
Ratios: Under two	2:1 unless completed 3 sem/45 hours addl training care of children <2	Centers 2:1 ≤6 wks max 6 4:1 6 wks – 12 mo. max 8 5:1 12 mo – 24 mo max 10 7:1 24 mo – 3 yrs max 14 10:1 3 – 5 yrs max 20 15:1 school age max 30 Family Child Care Homes 6:1 4 wks – 12 years max 6 3:1 NB/Infant/Toddler max 3
Maximum Occupancy Family Home	8 children under 13	

		8:1 School age max 8
Remain in sight if resting and < 2 y.o./ check q 15 min	X	X
Plan/post schedule of daily activities		X
Include language & literacy	X	X
Mathematical thinking	X	X
Scientific thinking	X	X
Social studies	X	X
Creative arts and dramatic play	X	X
Gross and small motor skills	X	X
Outdoor play morning/afternoon	X	X
Periods of rests	X	X
Limits on screen time (< than 2 no passive technology; > 2 no more than 30 min/week)	X	X
First Aid Kit	X	X
Food and snacks. Supplies all beverages and milk	Provided by child's family or provider	X
Building inspections & permits	X	X
In-home inspections (fire, safety, health & sanitation)		X
Fees	X	X
Discipline policy	X	X
Presence of pets in home	X	X
Use of Volunteers	X	X
If overnight, sleeping arrangements	X	X
Unannounced inspections		4 x year

DOD Fees: Multiple child reductions of 20% or less may be offered when more than one child in a family requires center-based care. The reductions are given on the less expensive form of care.

TRAINING		
	Maryland	DoD
Individual Development Plan	X	X
Within two years		90 clock hours
Child Dev. Curriculum	4 hours	Infant; toddlers; pre-school; school-age
Health	4 hours	
Safety & Nutrition	4 hours	
Special Needs	4 hours	
Professionalism	4 hours	
Community	4 hours	
Basic First Aid – American Red Cross or equiv	X	X
CPR	X	X
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	within 5 years	X
Supporting Breastfeeding	X	X
Emergency/Disaster Planning	X	X
Medication Administration	X	X
Americans with Disabilities Act	3 hours	X
	+ 18 hours approved by office	
Behavior management techniques		
Child abuse identification and reporting		X
Child abuse and neglect prevention and response		X
Child development norms and principles		X
Child health and nutrition		X
Child safety practices		X
Curriculum development for infants; toddlers; pre-school aged; school-aged children		X
Food service techniques		X
Observation/interviewing/screening		X
Parent education		X
Parent involvement		X
Sanitation practices		X
Sick child care/HIV		X
Space utilization for child activity areas		X
Special needs		X
Techniques working with infants; toddlers; pre-school and school aged children		X
Volunteer management		X
OR Assoc. Degree with 15 semester hours of early childhood or elementary education course work	X	OR Child Development Associate Credential
OR BS in Early Childhood Education or Elementary Education	X	
***Note: The MD Dept. of Education accepts DoD training modules for child care providers		

CONTINING EDUCATION TRAINING		
	Maryland	DoD
CPR/First Aid/SIDS update		Every year
Health & Safety	By end of 12 mo.	
	12 hours (6 in core)*	24 hours

*Does NOT include SIDS training

Substitute requirements in Maryland: Medical evaluation within the last 12 months; state criminal background check; “presents no risk to the health, safety or welfare of children”; **Orientation** to location of the telephone and emergency numbers; first aid supplies; child emergency forms; medication administration information for each child; modified diet information; emergency evacuation procedures; permissible and appropriate child discipline procedures; authorized child release procedures; procedures for document and reporting child injuries. See 13A.15.06.03

Substitutes do not have to complete any minimal training

Additional adult requirements in Maryland: 18 years old; attends an information session in the office concerning the requirements of this subtitle for care of children less than 2; medical report within 12 months; background check; CPR and basic first aid; SIDS training within last 5 years; office approval. See 13A.15.06.04

Additional adults do not have to complete any minimal training

Volunteer requirements in Maryland: “presents no risk to the health, safety or welfare of children”; child health and safety orientation; applied for a background check; must be accompanied by provider, substitute or add'l adult; if less than 18 may not be permitted to work with a child who is less than 2. See 13A.15.06.05

Volunteers do not have to complete any minimal training except a child health and safety orientation

Table 2-1
Records screening requirements — Continued

Name of check	Agency/office	Timeframe
Army Central Registry	Medical Treatment facility (Chairperson, Family Advocacy Case Review Committee)	Prior to employment or provision of care. (CDC) Annually (FCC)
Local Military Police (MP)	Provost Marshal	Prior to employment or provision of care. (CDC) Annually (FCC)
Criminal Investigation Division Records Check to include Defense Central Investigative Index (DCII) Check	United States Criminal Investigation Command (USACIDC)	Prior to employment or LOSS for employees ⁴ Annually (FCC)
Civilian Law Enforcement Records Check ¹	Provost Marshal	Prior to employment or provision of care.
Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Control Program	Drug/Alcohol	Prior to employment or provision of care. (CDC) Annually (FCC)
National Agency Check (NAC) ² (NAF employees)	Civilian Personnel Office	Completed during first 6 months of employment ⁴ .
National Agency Check Investigation (NACI) ² (NAF employees)	Civilian Personnel Office	Completed during first 6 months of employment ⁴ .
Housing Office ³	Family Housing Officer/Building coordinator	Prior to provision of care.
Sponsor Unit Commander ³	Sponsor Unit Commander	Prior to provision of care.
Crime control Act— State Criminal History Repository (SCHAR) ² Fingerprint Check through identification Division of FBI ²	Civilian Personnel Office Civilian Personnel Office (included as part of NAC/NACI check)	Prior to employment or with LOSS ⁴ Prior to employment or with LOSS ⁴

Notes:

Volunteers may be placed in CDS systems prior to completion of background checks since they always work with CDS employees or provider and are never left alone with children.

¹ Within United States only. If obtainable from local police authorities.

² Applies to employees only. Not applicable to FCC providers, FCC family members, CDS Volunteers and youth applicants.

³ Applies to FCC providers, substitute FCC providers, FCC family members age and older and other authorized individuals residing in the FCC home only.

⁴ Line of Sight Supervision (LOSS). New personnel may be hired/contracted conditionally pending completion of background checks, provided they are under Line of Sight Supervision at all times child occupied areas monitored by a cleared employee will also satisfy the LOSS requirement.

SB 280_MFN_FWA_Macsherry.pdf

Uploaded by: Clinton Macsherry

Position: FWA



Testimony Concerning SB 280
“Child Care Providers - Registration and Licensing - Exemptions”
Submitted to the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 22, 2023

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Maryland Family Network (MFN) respectfully requests clarifying amendments to SB 280, which codifies and expands a licensing exemption for child care programs that are certified by the Department of Defense (DOD) and that serve military families.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and early childhood education, as well as other supports for children and families in Maryland. We have been active in state and federal debates on child care policy and are strongly committed to ensuring that children, along with their parents, have access to high-quality, affordable programs and educational opportunities.

Child care programs (centers and family child care homes) that are located on a military base are currently exempt from Maryland licensing requirements. The proposed legislation would codify the exemption and extend it to cover DOD-certified child care programs that are located off-base.

MFN’s proposed amendments would clarify that the off-base exemption applies only to DOD-certified child care programs that serve military families exclusively, which we believe is the intent of the legislation. If the off-base programs wished to provide care to civilian children as well, the programs would need to seek a State child care license.

MFN has shared our suggestions for clarification with the bill sponsor. It is our understanding that she will consider them friendly amendments.

MFN respectfully requests the following amendments to SB 280:

On page 2, after line 3, delete the period and insert “AND SERVES ONLY DEPENDENTS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL.”

On page 2, after line 25, delete the period and insert “AND SERVES ONLY DEPENDENTS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL.”