



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**HB 1303**

**DATE: April 2, 2025**

**SPONSOR: Delegates Mireku-North and Wims**

**ASSIGNED TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment**

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**POSITION: FAVORABLE (Montgomery Department of Health and Human Services)**

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### **Child Care Centers - Teacher Qualifications – Alterations**

House Bill 1303 directs the Maryland State Board of Education to create a pathway through rules and regulations for an individual who is qualified to be a child care teacher but lacks proof of necessary educational attainment to attest to the qualifying educational credentials they hold.

Currently in regulations, early care and education teachers must hold a high school diploma. House Bill 1303 established alternative pathway for individuals to become a teacher in a child care center. This alternative would be especially helpful for individuals from other countries that might not have been able to secure educational documentation before arriving in the U.S. Providing for alternative pathways will increase the number of individuals who could work as a child care teacher, which is critical at a time when Maryland is facing a shortage of child care teacher and child care seats. Between 2019 and 2022, the number of child care workers fell in the State by 26%, and it has been noted that new workers are not entering the field of early care and education at previous rates.<sup>1</sup> House Bill 1303 would be a tool in the toolbox to bring more teachers into the child care workforce. Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report.

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<sup>1</sup> See pg. 24: <https://marylandtaxes.gov/reports/static-files/research/childcare.pdf>