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**TO:** House Ways and Means Committee

**BILL:** Senate Bill (SB) 252 – Child Care Centers – Certificated Staff Ratio Requirement – Repeal

**DATE:** March 19, 2025

**POSITION:** Support

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The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) would like to share the following information in support of the agency's departmental bill, **SB 252**.

**The State Board and MSDE support the amendments the House made to SB 252's crossfile, HB 150 which added language that MSDE must still set a ratio of certificate holders to children but left the specific ratio for MSDE to determine.**

While many families turn to child care centers and letters of compliance (LOC) facilities for the care of their younger children, certain programs also allow families to utilize their services for the care of their school-age children (children under 16 years old who attend a K-12 public or nonpublic school). These school-age children attend the program after their school day has concluded, and families have their child care and after-school care needs met by a child care provider. However, in allowing school-age children to enter their care, many child care centers and letters of compliance facilities have been restricted by the current staff requirements in First Aid and CPR certification in place under the governing statute (ED § 9.5-404).

Due to a workforce shortage across the state, school-age programs are experiencing challenges with staff recruitment and retention. MSDE is seeking a change in the law to respond to this staffing crisis and align school-age program requirements with First Aid and CPR requirements. The language aims to reduce the number of staff required to complete and maintain First Aid and CPR certification in school-age programs only.

The proposed statutory change would allow groups consisting exclusively of school-age children within a child care center or LOC facility to need only one staff member who is certified in approved First Aid and CPR for every 30 children, instead of the need for two certified staff members for 30 children based on the current ratio in statute of 1:20.

**Proposed change to statute:**

**MD Code, Education, § 9.5-404**

(8)(i) Require that a child care center have in attendance at all times at least 1 individual who is responsible for supervision of children, including children on field trips, and who holds a current certificate indicating successful completion of approved:

1. Basic first aid training through the American Red Cross or through a program with equivalent standards; and
2. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training through the American Heart Association or through a program with equivalent standards appropriate for the ages of children for whom care is provided in the child care center; and

**Current statute:**

(ii) Require that a child care center serving more than **20 children** have in attendance certificate holders described in item (i) of this item in a ratio of at least 1 certificate holder for every **20 children**;

**Proposed change:**

(ii) Removing the ratio from current statute to allow the agency to adjust the ratio by regulations as necessary.

We request that the committee consider this information as it deliberates **SB 252**. Please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne, Executive Director of Government Affairs, at [akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov](mailto:akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov) or at 410-767-0504. or Zach Hands, Executive Director of the State Board, at [zachary.hands1@maryland.gov](mailto:zachary.hands1@maryland.gov), if you would like any additional information.