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Anne Arundel County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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SPONSOR TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 359

Childcare Facilities– Criminal History Records Check-Requirement

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and EEE Committee Members

For the record, I am Shaneka Henson, representing District 30 in Anne Arundel County and member of the JPR Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 359 Childcare Facilities – Criminal History Records Check today.

This legislation is being requested by the Maryland Department of Education with the primary goal to put in place additional protections regarding interactions with young children. Specifically, it requires that an individual who will have direct contact with children in Maryland’s licensed childcare facilities, to submit to a criminal history records check, at the time of their application for employment.

Enacting this legislation requires Maryland’s Department of Education to establish on or before June 30, 2027, a centralized unit to process and manage information about criminal history records. The bill also alters the applicability of probationary employment qualifications for “first-time” teachers in childcare centers having direct contact with the children.

Participating today providing more details are

- Dr. Joshua Michael, President of the Maryland State Board of Education, and
- Tara Phillips, Executive Director of MSDE’s Childcare Operations

After hearing the testimony today, I urge a favorable report on this bill.

Thank you

Shaneka Henson, Senator