



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Ways and Means Committee

HB 396: Residential Child Care Programs – Education of Children and Training of Child and Youth Care Practitioners

February 11, 2026

Position: Support with Technical Amendment

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. HB 396 is another step forward to make sure that happens for children and youth with disabilities, therefore, the Council supports and recommends the following amendment to change outdated language:

- On page 4, line 20: 3. ~~Children with Special Needs~~, to Children with Disabilities

WHAT does this legislation do?

- Requires coordination between a child's school and residential child care program.
- Requires a training curriculum for residential child and youth program providers.

WHY is this legislation important?

- **Children and youth with disabilities benefit when schools and residential providers collaborate.** Requiring providers to talk to and work with the child's school ensures the child's needs are met in all environments, and helps the providers learn more about the child. . This coordination between school staff and residential child care providers promotes a seamless experience for the child.
- **Improved outcomes, and more success in school.** HB 396 requires residential child care providers to implement educational goals for children with disabilities that are consistent with their individualized education program (IEP), and behavioral supports and goals consistent with their behavioral intervention plan. Because providers support educational goals, and because behavior plans must be implemented with consistency, requiring child care providers to implement these supports and goals will be helpful.
- **Training for residential child care providers is essential for creating a safe, high quality environment for children with disabilities.**

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