

HOUSE BILL 1261

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By: **Delegates Guyton, Bagnall, Cullison, Foley, Forbes, Grossman, D. Jones, Lehman, Lopez, McCaskill, Mireku–North, Patterson, Queen, Ruth, Simpson, Taylor, White Holland, and Woods**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Access to High–Quality Early Childhood Education and Child**
3 **Care for Children Three Years Old and Younger**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on Access to High–Quality Early
5 Childhood Education and Child Care for Children Three Years Old and Younger; and
6 generally relating to the Commission on Access to High–Quality Early Childhood
7 Education and Child Care for Children Three Years Old and Younger.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10 (a) There is a Commission on Access to High–Quality Early Childhood Education
11 and Child Care for Children Three Years Old and Younger.

12 (b) The Commission consists of:

13 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
14 the Senate;

15 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
16 House;

17 (3) the Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of Early Childhood,
18 or the Assistant State Superintendent’s designee;

19 (4) the Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary’s designee; and

20 (5) the following members, appointed by the State Superintendent of
21 Schools:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) one representative of the Maryland Family Network;
- 2 (ii) one representative of the SEIU Local 500 Child Care Division;
- 3 (iii) one representative of the Maryland State Family Child Care
4 Association;
- 5 (iv) one representative of the Maryland State Child Care Association;
- 6 (v) one representative of the Maryland Head Start Association;
- 7 (vi) one representative of the Therapeutic Child Care Program;
- 8 (vii) one child care center provider that provides care to children up
9 to 3 years old;
- 10 (viii) one family child care provider that provides care to children up
11 to 3 years old;
- 12 (ix) one representative of the Chamber of Commerce;
- 13 (x) one parent of a child who is 3 years old or younger and is enrolled
14 at a child care center in the State;
- 15 (xi) one parent of a child who is 3 years old or younger and is enrolled
16 at a family care center in the State;
- 17 (xii) one representative of Maryland Rise; and
- 18 (xiii) one representative of a county Office of Child Care in the State.
- 19 (c) The members of the Commission shall elect the chair and cochair from among
20 its members.
- 21 (d) The Department of Legislative Services, in consultation with the State
22 Department of Education, shall provide staff for the Commission.
- 23 (e) A member of the Commission:
- 24 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but
- 25 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
26 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 27 (f) The Commission shall meet at least once every other month.

1 (g) The Commission shall:

2 (1) study implementing universal access to high-quality early childhood
3 education and child care for children 3 years old and younger, including:

4 (i) evaluating methods to increase the number and capacity of
5 high-quality child care providers and credentialed staff throughout the State, including in
6 child care deserts in underserved areas;

7 (ii) identifying and analyzing the possible effects of a
8 prekindergarten mixed delivery system on caregivers of infants and toddlers;

9 (iii) leveraging the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to meet the
10 needs of the child care industry in the State;

11 (iv) determining the feasibility of limiting child care costs to 8% of
12 family income and developing and implementing a sliding income scale for family
13 contributions;

14 (v) determining and evaluating potential sources of revenue to
15 subsidize the cost of high-quality early childhood education and child care options; and

16 (vi) any other issues of importance as determined by the
17 Commission; and

18 (2) make recommendations on ways to make cost-effective, high-quality
19 early childhood education and child care universally available to children 3 years old and
20 younger in the State.

21 (h) On or before October 1, 2025, the Commission shall report its findings and
22 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
23 Government Article, the General Assembly.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
25 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 5 months and, at the end of
26 December 1, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall
27 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.