

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 716

(Senator Ferguson, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Child Care Centers - Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Act

This bill requires rules and regulations for licensing and operating child care centers to promote proper nutrition and developmentally appropriate practices by (1) establishing training and policies promoting breast-feeding; (2) requiring compliance with the Child and Adult Food Care Program standards for beverages served to children, except that milk that is not nonfat or low fat may be ordered by a health care practitioner or requested by a parent or guardian; (3) prohibiting beverages other than infant formula that contain added sweetener or caffeine; and (4) setting limits on screen time.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) can adopt regulations using existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Child care centers must comply with new regulations.

Analysis

Current Law: MSDE must adopt rules and regulations relating to the licensing and operation of child care centers. In addition to other statutory requirements, the regulations must ensure safe and sanitary conditions and ensure the proper care, protection, and supervision of children.

Pursuant to regulations regarding child care centers, food and beverages that are furnished by an operator for meals or snacks, or both, must comply with the guidelines of the Child and Adult Food Care Program.

Background: According to the White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity, more than half of obese children become overweight by age two and approximately one in five children are overweight or obese by their sixth birthday. The regulations required in this bill conform to the recommendations within the task force's report to the President. The task force was established as part of the "Let's Move!" campaign, which is a comprehensive initiative launched by First Lady Michelle Obama dedicated to solving the problem of obesity within a generation.

The Child and Adult Food Care Program subsidizes participating institutions, including child care centers, for meals and snacks served to children and eligible adults. Meals must meet requirements established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the amount and types of food served for various age groups. For example, milk served must be low-fat or skim and fruit and vegetable juice must be full-strength.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1276 (Delegate A. Washington, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, letsmove.gov, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Legislative Services

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