

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 664
Ways and Means

(Delegate Guyton, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Child Care Programs – Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program – Information
and Assistance

This bill requires, beginning July 1, 2023, a child care program to make information regarding the Infants and Toddlers program (including contact information for the local lead agency responsible for administering the program) available to the parent or guardian of each child younger than age three. The information must be made available at least annually. On request of a parent or guardian, a child care program must assist with scheduling a time and convenient location for the local lead agency to provide the appropriate screening. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must provide each child care program with information about the Infants and Toddlers program sufficient for the child care program to carry out the requirements of the bill, including local lead agency contact information. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE can handle its responsibilities under the bill using existing resources. State revenues are not materially affected.

Local Effect: Local lead agencies for the Infants and Toddlers Program may experience operational impacts (and associated costs) to the extent that the bill increases the number of screenings and eventual services that would not have been provided otherwise.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Child care program” includes a child care center, a family child care home, and a large family child care home. A child care program may provide the required information to parents and guardians by various specified modes of communication.

Current Law: The Infants and Toddlers Program within MSDE provides early intervention services for children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families beginning at birth until the child reaches kindergarten age. The purpose of the program is to provide a statewide, community-based interagency system of comprehensive early intervention services to eligible children and their families.

The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) defines “screening” for purposes of the Infants and Toddlers Program as procedures or activities carried out by, or under the supervision of, the local lead agency or early intervention service provider to identify infants and toddlers suspected of having a disability and in need of early intervention services, at the earliest possible age, consistent with relevant federal regulations. Screening includes the administration of appropriate instruments by qualified personnel. COMAR specifies requirements and conditions for referral; screening procedures; parental notification; evaluation of a child to determine eligibility for early intervention services; and assessments to identify a child’s unique strengths and needs, services appropriate to meet those needs, and other appropriate resources and supports.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 2022
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