

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1403 (Delegate McCaskill)
Ways and Means

Family Child Care Homes and Large Family Child Care Homes - Age of Children in Care - Alterations

This bill alters the age of children in family child care homes and large family child care homes (from younger than age 2 to younger than age 15 months) under which certain limitations on the number of children in care and adult to child ratios apply. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) can likely implement the bill's requirements and adopt any required regulatory changes with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Bill Summary: For purposes of family child care homes and large family child care homes, a child care provider's own children younger than age two must be counted as children served.

In a family child care home, there may not be more than (1) eight children at any given time and (2) four children younger than age two. Additionally, there must be an adult to child ratio of at least one adult to every two children younger than age two.

In a large family child care home, there may not be more than 12 children in care at any given time. In addition, there must be a limit on the number of children younger than age two and an adult to child ratio that comply with specified regulations adopted by MSDE.

If MSDE determines that the group size provisions described above are unsuitable for a particular family child care home or large family child care home, MSDE may decrease the number of children permitted to be in care.

Current Law: Subject to limited exception, family child care homes and large family child care homes may not operate in the State unless they are registered. The State Board of Education is required to adopt regulations that relate to the registration of family child care homes and large family child care homes. A family child care home is a residence in which family child care is provided for up to 8 children. A large family child care home is a residence in which family child care is provided for at least 9 children, but not more than 12 children.

Small Business Effect: Family child care homes and large family child care homes may be able to serve more children younger than the age of two under the bill.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

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