

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 539 (Delegate Mireku-North, et al.)
Ways and Means

Child Care Centers - Teacher Qualifications - Alterations

This bill requires the State Board of Education to provide a pathway for certain individuals to attest to qualifying educational credentials to be a child care teacher teaching in a child care center. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$91,000 in FY 2027 only for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to make reprogramming changes. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	91,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$91,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: Under current law, the State board must adopt rules and regulations for licensing and operating child care centers that meet specified requirements, including probationary employment qualifications for an individual who is applying for the first time to be a child care teacher in a child care center in the State that serves preschool or school-age children who are at least age three.

The bill specifies that the rules and regulations must provide a pathway for an individual who is qualified to be a child care teacher, but lacks proof of necessary educational attainment, to attest to the qualifying educational credentials held by the individual. MSDE must establish a process to carry out this requirement.

State Expenditures: MSDE advises that it must update its Child Care Administrative Tracking System to accommodate the bill's changes. Therefore, in fiscal 2027, general fund expenditures increase by approximately \$91,000 to make the necessary reprogramming changes.

Small Business Effect: The bill likely meaningfully benefits small business child care programs, to the extent the pathway established by MSDE enhances hiring capabilities.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1303 of 2025.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

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caw/jkb

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