



**Caring For Maryland's Most  
Important Natural Resource™**

## **Maryland State Child Care Association**

2810 Carrollton Road  
Annapolis, Md. 21403  
Phone: (410) 820-9196  
Email: [info@mscca.org](mailto:info@mscca.org)  
[www.mscca.org](http://www.mscca.org)

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*The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is a non-profit, statewide, professional association incorporated in 1984 to promote the growth and development of child care and learning centers in Maryland. MSCCA has over 4500 members working in the field of early childhood. We believe children are our most important natural resources and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.*

January 27, 2021

Position: Favorable with **Amendments**

HB 392

Ways and Means Committee

MSCCA recognizes and appreciates the efforts of Delegate Guyton and Co-Sponsors to increase early childhood screenings for developmental disabilities. MSCCA fully supports early childhood screenings for developmental disabilities. We understand early intervention is critical and some of our programs that are confident in their training and tools may be offering and incorporating developmental screenings as an option for families. This proposed legislation was introduced last session and significantly amended to require the Maryland State Department of Education to create a developmental disability screening tool and requiring child care providers to offer the screening to parents. We appreciate the extensive effort the Ways and Means Committee took to meet the needs of children, families, and child care providers, however, we believe additional amendments are necessary.

We met with the sponsor and other stakeholders early in session and expressed our eagerness to come up with a solution. To that end, we developed amendments that would require MSDE to create a developmental disabilities informational brochure and require child care providers to give the brochure to parents upon enrollment of their children. Furthermore, the brochure would include information on where to obtain development disability screening from qualified medical professionals and requires the child care provider to assist connecting the family with the qualified screeners in the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program. Finally, our amendments add family child care providers to those required to provide parents with the informational brochure. Family child care providers serve an additional 40,000 Maryland children.

Furthermore, it is important to note that when a parent enrolls a child at a licensed provider, the parent is required to have a doctor or nurse practitioner evaluate the child for a broad range of medical conditions and complete a Health Inventory (Health Inventory Form 1215) evaluation that is then provided to the child care provider. The inventory requires the nurse practitioner or physician to evaluate for conditions like attention deficit, behavior, development, neurological, psychosocial and speech. We believe the medical evaluation of children should remain the jurisdiction of medical professionals. The child care provider community stands ready to connect families to the necessary resources.

We remain committed to working with Delegate Guyton and the Ways and Means Committee on this important legislation. We thank the Committee for consideration of the amendments that follow.

Sincerely,

Christina Peusch

Article 9.5-413.1.

**Amendment 1:**

On Page 1, Line 24, after “SUBTITLE”, insert “**AND SUBTITLE 3 of TITLE 9.5 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.**”

**Explanation:** this provision adds family child care providers to those required to provide and information pamphlet.

**Amendment 2:**

On Page 2, Lines 1 and 2, strike, ~~ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR~~ and insert “**CREATE AN INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE ON**”

On Page 2, Line 3, Strike, “;” and replace with “**DISTRIBUTE TO THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A CHILD.**”

**Explanation:** This amendment requires the Department to develop a uniform informational brochure on available screenings for developmental disabilities for parents.

**Amendment 3:**

On Page 2, Line 4, Insert:

“**(C) THE INFORMATIONAL PAMPHLET DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE:**”

On Page 2, Line 4, before “ASSESS” insert “**RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE TO THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO**”

On Page 2, Line 6, after “DISABILITIES” strike “;” and insert:

“**; AND,**

**(3) CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE LOCAL LEAD AGENCY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARYLAND INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM.**”

**Explanation:** This amendment clarifies what needs to be included in the informational brochure.

**Amendment 4:**

On Page 2, Line 7, Strike “(C)” and replace with “(D)”

On Page 2, Line 8, Strike “OFFER” and replace with “**PROVIDE**”

On page 2, Line 9, Strike “~~TO EVALUATE THE CHILD USING THE GUIDELINES~~” and replace with “**THE INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE AND THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN SHALL INITIAL RECEIPT OF THE INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE**”

**Explanation:** This amendment requires the child care center to provide the parent the informational brochure.

**Amendment 5:**

On page 2, strike in their entirety lines 11 through 21.

**Explanation:** This amendment strikes unnecessary language.

**Amendment 6:**

On page 2, line 22, strike “(4)” and replace with “(2)”

**Explanation:** Technical amendment to make formatting consistent.

**Amendment 7:**

On page 2, strike in their entirety, lines 28 through 33.

On page 3, strike in their entirety, lines 1 through 5.

**Explanation:** This amendment strikes unnecessary language.