



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 944

DATE: February 24, 2021

SPONSOR: Delegate Solomon

ASSIGNED TO: Ways and Means and Appropriations

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey

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POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

(Department of Health and Human Services)

Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program – Established

House Bill 944 would establish the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program in the Maryland State Department of Education to make grants to local jurisdiction or child care licensing regions to establish and support a local pilot program. The pilot program aims to increase the supply and ensure the sustainability of family child care providers in areas in need.

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services supports House Bill 944; Dr. Barbara Andrews provided testimony on behalf of the Department on the sponsor's panel. We write here to address a technical issue and suggest an amendment. As you heard from Dr. Andrews, Montgomery County currently has a program on which this bill is modeled after the County recognized a need among our family child care providers. As currently written, the bill directs the grants created under the bill to be used to "establish and support a local pilot program." We respectfully request that the bill be amended say that the grants could be used to establish and/or support a local pilot program in order to ensure that Montgomery County not be precluded from eligibility for a grant under the bill.

The suggested amendment language is included with this testimony.

Montgomery County Suggested Amendments to House Bill 944

Amendment No. 1

On page 3, after “establish and” in line 4, insert “or”.