



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 1307

*Education – Child Care Centers and Youth Development Organizations and Programs
(Support Youth Development for School-Age Children Act)*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Ways and Means Committee

Date: March 3, 2021

From: Drew Jabin

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1307. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact families in Maryland, access to affordable, safe child care opportunities is critically important. HB 1307 would provide a narrow, reasonable, and welcome exception to current regulations in order for certain youth development organizations and departments to provide out-of-school services.

County and nonprofit programs across the state have been requesting an exception of child care licensing during the State of Emergency to be able to provide these necessary service expansions during such a difficult time. Specifically, HB 1307 would allow for certain youth development organizations and departments, such as parks and recreation programs and programs funded and monitored by local management boards, to be exempt.

Maryland county governments all have a common goal of providing for the health and wellbeing of children in their community, and this bill creates a reasonable exemption for county programs to be able to serve more families in Maryland. Accordingly, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 1307 and requests a **FAVORABLE** report.