



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 136

DATE: January 26, 2023

SPONSOR: Delegates Moon and Palakovich Carr

ASSIGNED TO: Judiciary

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey (leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT

Child Support Enforcement - Occupational and Recreational Licenses - Taxpayer Identification Number

Family Law-Article §119.3 currently requires the disclosure of a Social Security number when an applicant applies for an occupational or recreational license from the State. This section of State law is to ensure that the licensee or applicant for a license is not in arrears for paying child support, however, the same verification can be performed by the Maryland Department of Human Services if the applicant submits an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) rather than a Social Security number (SSN) if they do not have one. House Bill 136 allows for the substitution of an ITIN for the SSN for applicants who do not have an SSN- this would enable a Maryland resident who has an ITIN rather than an SSN to become licensed as a child care provider, among other licensed occupations.

The bill does not amend any language related to the submission of an SSN or documentation of ineligibility for an SSN for a driver's license. Neither does the bill amend any language related to the submission of an SSN for a marriage license.

Montgomery County government strongly supports the occupational licensing of Maryland residents who hold an ITIN. Passage of HB136 would enable child care providers who are otherwise qualified for a child care provider license but for not having an SSN to be issued a license. Licensing would allow these providers to participate in programs for licensed child care providers, such as the County's *Growing Opportunities in Family Child Care* program, a nationally-recognized model that provides an innovative and comprehensive approach to opening a family child care program. Given that Maryland, along with the rest of the country, is facing a child care provider shortage that can cripple the labor market as a whole if families cannot find care for their children¹, it is critical that the General Assembly use all of the tools available to remove unnecessary barriers to licensure for child care providers who meet all of the health and safety requirements for licensure.

Montgomery County respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 136.

¹¹ Goldstein, D. *Why You Can't Find Child Care: 100,000 Workers Are Missing*. The New York Times, October 13, 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/13/us/child-care-worker-shortage.html>