



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

Maryland State Child Care Association

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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 5000 members working in the field of child care/early childhood education. We believe children are our most important natural resource and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.

Testimony: HB 1195 Care Providers – Anaphylactic Food Allergies – Guidelines and Indemnity 3 (Elijah's Law)

Submitted to: Education, Energy and Environment Committee

March 27, 2024

MSCCA fully supports HB 1195 and applauds Delegate Palakovich Carr for adding Maryland as part of the important, national lifesaving initiative for all states to adopt Elijah's Echo/Law.

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to jointly develop guidelines to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic major food allergens in child care settings.

Safety is our priority. No child should be at risk with documented food allergens in child care settings due to lack of training, policies and resources that can easily be developed, adopted, and implemented in our state.

HB 1195 takes the concrete, necessary steps to create awareness and preparedness related to food allergens and emergency protocols which are critical for protecting health and saving lives, especially in child care environments.

The development of food allergen policies, protocols, and resources, including comprehensive guidelines for storage in tandem with administration of epinephrine is a critical support for the foundation of safety in child care settings.

HB 1139 also recognizes the need to include immunity of civil liability for acting in good faith or course of omission.

MSCCA urges a favorable report, our children and families are counting on it.