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Testimony on House Bill 1254
Child Care Providers - Criminal History Records Checks and Abuse and Neglect
Clearances - Requirements
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Oppose/Amend

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 2000 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We must urge you to oppose House Bill 1254 as it has been amended in the House of Delegates.

The House passed version of HB 1254 goes against the original intent of the bill, creating a law that on its face allows MSDE and the Department of Human Services to ignore federal requirements, excusing in some cases failure to meet even worst case federal deadlines on the basis that they lack adequate staff or resources.

The bill's original intent was understood to mandate compliance with a maximum 45-day limit in federal regulations. As a practical matter, if anything even approaching that amount of time becomes the operating standard for these agencies, it will have serious negative impacts for early childhood learning centers and other day care/child care providers. When new staff are hired, or are needed to replace staff leaving, dismissed, or on extended sick leave, delays of two or three weeks in hiring, or putting a replacement in the classroom or center can be disruptive of care, family circumstances and employment situations.

Deadlines and requirements that are mandated will normally get priority for resources over those that can be excused. With state funding tight and structural deficits uncorrected, and the state working to boost employment and the economy, this is not the time for a measure that jeopardizes such an important workforce support.



Maryland Nonprofits' mission is to strengthen organizations and networks for greater quality of life and equity.