

***HB 1344 - Department of General Services - Assessment of State-Owned Facilities -
Child Care Centers***

Position: Letter of Information

Committee: Appropriations

Date: February 25, 2025

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The Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) is providing this Letter of Information to explain the operational and fiscal effects of this proposed legislation on the Department.

To satisfy the requirements of the bill, DGS notes the following components of the proposed legislation. This bill would require DGS to conduct an assessment of facilities owned by the State to evaluate whether the facility or a portion of the facility would be suitable to lease to a child care center. The legislation would further require the Department to report the results of the assessment, including an inventory of all facilities owned by the State and a description of whether each facility is suitable to lease to a child care center and has availability to be leased by the State to a child care center, on or before December 1, 2026.

DGS is responsible for, and has significant information regarding, the facilities operated by 16 state agencies. The Department's Building Assessment Unit (BAU) has considerable experience and data concerning the 1,400 state-owned facilities representing about 25 million square feet of space. Again, this data reflects the 16 state agencies which DGS supports. The Department anticipates being able to utilize existing data as a starting point to determine if a state-owned facility is suitable to lease as a childcare center. Building on this data, the Department would work with the DGS Office of Real Estate (ORE) to determine if there is availability for a facility to be leased to a childcare center.

For state-owned facilities for which DGS does not have sufficient data, the Department anticipates the need to conduct on-site assessments and data gathering for reporting purposes. Such property may be among the 16 state agencies under the Department's purview, but may also include other facilities. For example, DGS also notes that the Department's considerable scope of responsibilities relating to state facilities does not include facilities owned or operated by the Maryland Department of Transportation or University of Maryland. DGS anticipates the need for one additional designated staff person to administer the scope of work described in this legislation.

Again, DGS is providing this testimony for informational purposes, and the Department looks forward to being of further assistance as the Committee considers this bill.