

TO: House Committee on the Environment and Transportation

BILL: HB0911- Real Property - Landlord and Tenant - Family Child Care Homes

DATE: February 18, 2025

POSITION: Information

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for consideration regarding HB0911- Real Property - Landlord and Tenant - Family Child Care Homes which allows landlords to impose a security deposit equivalent of up to two months' rent if a tenant operates or has plans to operate a family child care home. The bill would also prohibit a landlord from blocking a tenant from operating a family child care home.

Maryland has a shortage of child care providers which has led many Maryland residents to pay nearly as much for child care as they do for housing. The Blueprint establishes a goal of increasing affordable access to child care for Maryland's families, especially those from low-income backgrounds, and MSDE is dedicated to working towards access for all of Maryland's children. However, right now, the limited number of child care providers and their capacity means that the state cannot meet the demand of its residents, and increased upfront costs for providers will likely discourage some potential providers from entering the market.

Due to their small-scale capacity, in comparison to child care centers, family child care programs are small businesses. Many small businesses, including family child care programs, struggle with more financial hardships than corporate child care center counterparts due to their restrictive capacities, limited resources, and the fact that they are self-run. Subsequently, additional upfront costs can create financial barriers that may lead to an unsustainable child care program.

We request that the committee consider this information as it deliberates HB0911. Please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne, Executive Director of Government Affairs, at akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov or at 410-767-0504, if you would like any additional information.