

WES MOORE  
*Governor*

ARUNA MILLER  
*Lieutenant Governor*



YAAKOV "JAKE" WEISSMANN  
*Acting Secretary*

MARC L. NICOLE  
*Deputy Secretary*

## **HB0561 - Maryland Child Care Credential Program - Extension of Funding**

### **Letter of Information**

**DATE:** February 24th 2026

**COMMITTEE:** Appropriations Ways and Means

**POSITION:** Letter of Information

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** This bill mandates that the Governor appropriate annual funding for the Maryland Child Care Credentialing program equal to or greater than the funding included in the FY 2024 Appropriation, starting in FY 2028.

**EXPLANATION:** The funding appropriation in FY 2024 was \$5,687,000, so this bill would mandate \$5,687,00 starting in FY 2028. There is no sunset to this mandate so the funding requirement would continue indefinitely. There was previously a mandate that sunsetted in FY 2026, and no funding was included in the FY 2027 Allowance. Therefore, this would require an increase of the full amount in FY 2028.

Given the significant uncertainty in federal policy and the escalating fiscal shortfalls forecasted through Fiscal Year 2028, the Department urges caution against legislation that increases expenditures or diverts revenue without sustainable funding offsets. In light of the current fiscal crisis, the State must remain disciplined and strategic in its funding decisions to protect essential services for all Marylanders.

**For additional information, contact Dana Phillips at**

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# Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET  
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