
TO: House Appropriations Committee

BILL: House Bill (HB) 1559 – Children in Unlicensed Settings and Pediatric Hospital Overstay Patients - Placement

DATE: March 3, 2026

POSITION: Support with Amendments

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the State Board of Education support House Bill 1559 with amendments. The bill advances a coordinated, all-of-government approach to protect the health and well-being of children placed in unlicensed settings and youth experiencing pediatric hospital overstay. MSDE and the Board support the goals of this legislation and the amendments proposed by the Department of Human Services. MSDE values the strong cross-agency collaboration reflected in these amendments and is grateful for Speaker Peña-Melnyk’s partnership and willingness to work closely with MSDE and other State agencies.

MSDE remains committed to continued collaboration with our partner agencies to ensure that clear processes and procedures are in place to safeguard the safety, stability, and well-being of Maryland’s children and youth.

For further information, please contact Laurel Cratsley, Interim Executive Director of Government Affairs, at 443-571-5461 or Laurel.Cratsley@maryland.gov.