



**Caring For Maryland's Most
Important Natural Resource™**

Maryland State Child Care Association

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The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is a non-profit, statewide, professional association incorporated in 1984 to promote the growth and development of child care and learning centers in Maryland. MSCCA has over 5500 members working in the field of child care/early childhood education. We believe children are our most important natural resource and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.

Senate Bill 672-Prince George's County – Expanding Access to Early Childhood Education and Child Care

Submitted to: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 11, 2026

Position: FAVORABLE

MSCCA is in support of **Senate Bill 672**, legislation that requires the State Department of Education to develop an implementation and financing plan to expand access to high-quality early childhood education and child care in Prince George's County for children from birth through age three.

This bill takes a thoughtful, data-driven approach to meeting the needs of families, child care providers, and the broader community by ensuring that any expansion of services is carefully planned, fiscally responsible, and developed in collaboration with key partners. Care for children from birth to age three is the hardest to find and the most expensive due to strict staff-to-child ratios and COMAR requirements for infants and toddlers. Although child care is essential infrastructure, it remains largely unaffordable: families spend, on average, about 27 percent of their income on care, while child care businesses struggle to pay wages high enough to recruit and retain staff. The average child care worker earns less than \$27,000 annually. According to the Maryland Family Network's 2025 Child Care Demographics, the average annual cost of infant and toddler care is \$23,735 in Prince George's County and \$24,657 statewide, and there are more than 207,000 children ages 0–2 across Maryland. These sobering numbers reflect a clear market failure and underscore the urgent need to build a stronger, more sustainable child care system that allows parents to work and contribute to the economy.

Senate Bill 672 directs the State Department of Education to consult with Prince George's County and relevant State agencies in developing the required plan. This collaborative requirement recognizes that expanding early childhood education and child care is a shared responsibility and that successful outcomes depend on coordination across levels of government. By requiring consultation, the bill helps ensure that local conditions, existing resources, and community needs are meaningfully considered in the planning process.

The bill requires the implementation and financing plan to include a comprehensive analysis of key factors that affect access to early childhood education and child care. Specifically, the plan must examine costs to parents, the county, and the State; workforce needs; provider capacity; and potential county and State revenue options. This structured analysis promotes transparency and accountability while allowing policymakers to make informed decisions based on a clear understanding of financial impacts, workforce considerations, and service capacity. Rather than mandating immediate changes without sufficient information, Senate Bill 672 ensures that future actions will be grounded in careful evaluation and planning.

Senate Bill 672 includes a clear timeline for accountability by requiring the Department to submit the completed plan to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Prince George's County Delegation by December 1, 2026. This reporting requirement ensures legislative oversight and provides policymakers with the information needed to consider next steps.

Senate Bill 672 represents a prudent and forward-looking approach to expanding access to high-quality early childhood education and child care in Prince George's County. By focusing on planning, collaboration, and comprehensive analysis, this legislation lays the groundwork for sustainable and equitable improvements that benefit children, families, providers, and the community.

MSCCA respectfully urges a **FAVORABLE** report on **Senate Bill 672**.