



House Bill 1259

Position: Favorable

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Date: April 2, 2026

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

House Bill 1259 (HB 1259) makes clarifying changes to existing law to ensure that local zoning authorities may not impose additional prohibitions or requirements that restrict the operation of licensed family child care homes beyond those established by the State.

Last year, the Chamber supported HB 785, which removed barriers that prevented family child care homes from operating in certain communities and helped expand access to child care across Maryland. HB 1259 makes important clarifications to ensure the law is implemented as intended. By reinforcing the original policy adopted by the General Assembly in 2025, this bill helps avoid unintended restrictions that could limit the availability of family child care homes.

Increasing access to reliable and affordable child care remains critical to supporting Maryland's workforce and the employers who rely on it. Family child care homes play an important role in addressing child care shortages and providing flexible care options for working families. Ensuring the law is clear and consistently applied will help maintain and expand these important services.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **favorable report** on HB 1259.