



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Ways and Means Committee

SB 402: Residential Child Care Programs – Education of Children and Training of Child and Youth Care Practitioners

April 1, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. The Council SB 402 as another step forward to make sure that happens for children and youth with disabilities, and appreciate the Sponsor's willingness to correct outdated language on page 4, line 24.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- Requires coordination between a child's school and residential child care program.
- Requires a training curriculum for residential child and youth program providers.

WHY is this legislation important?

- **Children and youth with disabilities benefit when schools and residential providers collaborate.** Requiring providers to talk to and work with the child's school ensures the child's needs are met in all environments, and helps the providers learn more about the child. This coordination between school staff and residential child care providers promotes a seamless experience for the child.
- **Improved outcomes, and more success in school.** SB 402 requires residential child care providers to implement educational goals for children with disabilities that are consistent with their individualized education program (IEP), and behavioral supports and goals consistent with their behavioral intervention plan. Because providers support educational goals, and because behavior plans must be implemented with consistency, requiring child care providers to implement these supports and goals will be helpful.
- **Training for residential child care providers is essential for creating a safe, high quality environment for children with disabilities.**

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