



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Ways and Means Committee

HB 1373: State Department of Education – Independent Regulatory Framework for After School and Out of School Time Child Care Programs - Study Letter of Information

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council), a policy organization led by people with developmental disabilities and their families, creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. We want Maryland to be a place where people with and without disabilities live, learn, work, and play together. From that perspective, we work closely with the State Department of Education (MSDE) to make sure all children have access and opportunity to learn, play, and succeed, including in child care settings, before and after school activities, and out of school time programs.

Programs must provide children with disabilities and their families an equal opportunity to participate by providing reasonable modifications, accommodations, and provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services needed for effective communication.¹

WHAT does this bill do?

- Requires MSDE to study and make recommendations on a framework for the regulation of child care programs for children who are at least 5 years old that are separate from the regulations of child care programs for children who are under 5 years old.
- Requires the study to include the evaluation of unique needs of those programs.

The Council has worked closely with MSDE to improve policies, practices, and laws so that all children learn and play together in both child care and before and after school and out of school time programs. In 2012, the Council released a report with 22 recommendations about how to decrease barriers to high quality child care and out of school time activities for children with disabilities and their families.

If this study moves forward, the needs of children with disabilities must be explicitly considered. The quality of a child care program is tied to the ability of the program to provide appropriate services and supports to all children, including those with disabilities.

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¹ Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 (2009).