

Public Policy Final Report / 2018 MSFCCA Legislative Session Wrap-up

Public Policy Chair: Linda Church

Committee: Debbie Moore, Rebecca Hancock, Jacqueline Grant

5/9/18

- The Public Policy Committee has met once and discussed legislation, goals and a time line for the coming months.
- Bill updates were posted daily to the web site and sent to the committee.
- Evening in Annapolis was a success, unfortunately not many family child care providers were in attendance. We need ideas to encourage more family child care providers to attend and convince them that advocacy is an important part of their profession.
- MSFCCA collaborated in the effort to reach an Early Childhood Care & Learning Priorities Agenda for 2018 which was adopted by the MD State Child Care Association, Organization of Child Care Directors of Montgomery Co, the MD State Family Child Care Association, Family Child Care Association of Montgomery Co, & the Montgomery Co Chapter of MSCCA. Here is the link: <http://msfccca.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Priorities-Agenda-Bills-Jan-27-2018-1.pdf>
- CCDBG – A huge increase to CCDBG was passed as a part of the Omnibus Bill signed by the President on March 23rd. There will be a \$2.37 billion increase to the Child Care Development Block Grant, Maryland will receive 30 million over the next two fiscal years.
- Subsidy List was opened on all levels EFFECTIVE 2/1/18.
- The 2018 Legislative session ended on April 9th.

BUDGET

The General Assembly passed a budget with no cuts to the Governor's proposal for the Division of Early Childhood Development (DECD). Here is the link to the DECD Budget Analysis – this is a very helpful document on both budget and policy issues and information: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs/budgetfiscal/2019fy-budget-docs-operating-R00A99-MSDE-Early-Childhood-Development.pdf>.

MSFCCA submitted Testimony

- **HB0057 – Large Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers – Green Product Cleaning Supplies – Regulations in Health and Government Operations** – Sponsor: Delegate Angel –

Synopsis: Requiring the State Board of Education to adopt regulations that require, to the extent practicable and economically feasible, a large family child care home or child care center to use environmentally preferable green product cleaning supplies, establish guidelines for purchasing certain green product cleaning supplies, establish green cleaning practices, and require a large family child care home or child care center that does not procure green cleaning products to provide written notice to the Department by June 30 each year; etc.

MSFCCA opposed this Bill again as in previous years with Testimony on behalf of large family child care homes and centers.

Unfavorable Report by Health and Government Operations

- **HB430/SB379– Education – Child Care Subsidies – Mandatory Funding Levels** sponsored by Delegate Jones in Appropriations and Senator King in Budget and Taxation

Synopsis: Requiring the Governor to include in the State budget a certain appropriation to the Child Care Subsidy Program each fiscal year; requiring the Governor to appropriate funds in the State budget to increase the Child Care Subsidy Program reimbursement rates to a certain amount in certain fiscal years; etc.

MSFCCA supported both Bills with Testimony.

Note: The federal government requires that we provide equal access which the federal government says is 75% of what's available in the community. This Bill requires that subsidies pay up to the 30th percentile in 2020, the 45th percentile in 2021, and the 60th percentile in 2022. Maryland is one of the 3rd lowest states in the country for affordability and accessibility of childcare but one of the highest for incomes. To clarify the current rates, at this point MD families in the subsidy program can only afford 10% of all the available child care in Maryland which is very often the poorest quality because it is the least costly. Equal access means that Subsidy families should have access to 75% of all available child care programs in your community. There is a revised Fiscal Note for this Bill showing the cost of the subsidy rate increases is \$23.1 million. The passage of the federal omnibus budget is expected to provide Maryland an additional \$30 million a year for the next two years, which would cover the rate increase and more.

Both Bills Returned Passed

- **HB547/SB373 – Education – Head Start Program – Annual Appropriation** sponsored by Delegate Barron in Appropriations and Senator Currie in Budget and Taxation

Synopsis: Requiring the Governor to include an appropriation of at least \$3,000,000 for the Head Start Program in each annual budget submission.

MSFCCA supported both Bills with Testimony.

Both Bills Returned Passed

Note: Head Start Bill (Ulysses Curie Act)- restores funding to 2009 levels.

- **HB910 - Education - Students with Reading Difficulties - Screenings and Interventions in Ways and Means** Sponsor: Delegate Luedtke

Synopsis: Requiring certain county boards of education to ensure that a certain student is screened to identify if the student is at risk for reading difficulties beginning with the 2019-2020 school year; requiring a county board to use certain screening instruments for certain students; requiring a county board to monitor a certain student for progress for up to 8 weeks; requiring certain county boards to report annually certain information to the State Department of Education; etc.

MSFCCA monitored this Bill.

Third Reading Passed (136-0)

- **HB0941 – Child Care Subsidy Program – Unemployment Eligibility in Appropriations** – Sponsor: Delegate Queen -

Synopsis: Requiring the State Department of Education to administer the Child Care Subsidy Program in accordance with federal law; establishing eligibility criteria to continue to receive a certain subsidy for up to 90 days in a year if the individual is unemployed and seeking employment and if the individual meets certain other eligibility requirements; etc.

MSFCCA monitored this Bill.

Passed Enrolled

- **HB1415/SB1092 - Education - Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education in Ways and Means** and Appropriations by the Speaker and in Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation by the President

Synopsis: Requiring the State Department of Education, in collaboration with certain entities, to establish a certain outreach program; establishing the Maryland Early Literacy Initiative in the Department; establishing the Learning in Extended Academic Programs (LEAP) grant program; altering certain eligibility requirements for the Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship program; establishing a Career and Technology Education Innovation Grant; extending the final report date for the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education; etc.

MSFCCA monitored both Bills.

Note: Kirwan Commission Bill –The benefit of this Bill for early childhood is that it preserves funding for pre-K expansion with State General Funds if there is a loss of federal funding.

HB 1415 Passed Enrolled

- **SB379/HB430 - Education - Child Care Subsidies - Mandatory Funding Levels** by **Senator King** in **Budget & Taxation** and **Delegate Jones** in **Appropriations** -

Synopsis: Requiring the Governor to include in the State budget a certain appropriation to the Child Care Subsidy Program each fiscal year; requiring the Governor to appropriate funds in the State budget to increase the Child Care Subsidy Program reimbursement rates to a certain amount in certain fiscal years; etc.

MSFCCA supported these Bills with Testimony.

Both Bills Returned Passed

Note: The federal government requires that we provide equal access which the federal government says is 75% of what's available in the community. This Bill requires that subsidies pay up to the 30th percentile in 2020, the 45th percentile in 2021, and the 60th percentile in 2022. Maryland is one of the 3rd lowest states in the country for affordability and accessibility of childcare but one of the highest for incomes. To clarify the current rates, at this point MD families in the subsidy program can only afford 10% of all the available child care in Maryland which is very often the poorest quality because it is the least costly. Equal access means that Subsidy families should have access to 75% of all available child care programs in your community. There is a revised Fiscal Note for this Bill showing the cost of the subsidy rate increases is \$23.1 million. The passage of the federal omnibus budget is expected to provide Maryland an additional \$30 million a year for the next two years, which would cover the rate increase and more.

- **HB0711 – Driving While Impaired by Alcohol – Transporting a Minor - Penalties** in **Judiciary** – **Sponsor: Delegate Ciliberti** -

Synopsis: Increasing certain penalties for certain convictions of driving while impaired by alcohol while transporting a minor.

MSFCCA monitored this Bill.

Unfavorable Report by Judiciary

- **HB1164 – Vehicle Laws – Rear-Facing Child Safety Seats – Requirement** in **Environment and Transportation** – **Sponsor: Delegate Adams** -

Synopsis: Requiring a person transporting a child under the age of 2 years in a motor vehicle to secure the child in a rear-facing child safety seat unless the child is at least 40 pounds or at least 40 inches tall.

MSFCCA monitored this Bill.

Unfavorable Report by Environment and Transportation

TERMS

Third Reading Passed - Third reading passed means the bill met its Maryland Constitutional requirements of three readings for passage in the chamber.

Returned Passed – When a Bill is passed in its chamber of origin after being returned by the opposite chamber without amendments.

Passed Enrolled – Means that a Bill was passed by the original chamber after being amended by the opposite chamber.

Note that there were other Bills MSFCCA monitored that did not complete the legislative process. They are listed here in more detail:

<http://msfcca.org/2018-legislative-session/>

**MSFCCA 2018 Session Bills Watch List
5-9-18(FINAL)**

Number / Chapter (Cross File / Chapter) Total: 26	Title	Primary Sponsor	Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	MSFCCA Action Taken
HB0010	State Lottery - Unclaimed Prizes - Public Prekindergarten Programs	Delegate Walker	Hearing 1/17 at 1:00 p.m.	Ways and Means 1/17/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Monitoring
HB0057	Large Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers - Green Product Cleaning Supplies - Regulations	Delegate Angel	Unfavorable Report by Health and Government Operations	Health and Government Operations 1/23/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Oppose w/Testimony
HB0068	Income Tax Credits - Employer Child Care Center and Employer-Provided Child Care Services	Delegate Angel	Hearing 1/17 at 1:00 p.m.	Ways and Means 1/17/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Monitoring
HB0084	Public Health - Child Care Products Containing Flame-Retardant Chemicals - Prohibition	Delegate Angel	Hearing 2/13 at 1:00 p.m.	Health and Government Operations 2/13/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Monitoring
HB0160 (SB0185)	Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2019)	Speaker	First Reading Appropriations	Appropriations		Support w/Testimony
HB0228	Child Care Centers - Definition of Child Care	Delegate Rey	Hearing 2/08 at 1:00 p.m.	Ways and Means 2/8/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Oppose w/Testimony
HB0345	Sales and Use Tax - Diapers - Exemption	Delegate Waldstreicher	Hearing 2/07 at 1:00 p.m.	Ways and Means 2/7/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Monitoring
HB0430 (SB0379)	Education - Child Care Subsidies - Mandatory Funding Levels	Delegate Jones	Approved by the Governor - Chapter 563	Appropriations 2/13/2018 - 1:00 p.m.	Budget and Taxation 3/28/18 at 1:00 p.m.	Support w/Testimony
HB0500 (SB0132)	Crimes - Child Abuse and Neglect - Failure to Report	Delegate Sanchez	Hearing 2/08 at 1:00 p.m.	Judiciary 2/8/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Monitoring
HB0519 (SB0422)	Income Tax - Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses - Income Eligibility	Delegate Kelly	Hearing 2/14 at 1:00 p.m.	Ways and Means 2/14/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Support
HB0547 (SB0373)	Education - Head Start Program - Annual Appropriation (The Ulysses Currie Act)	Delegate Barron	Approved by the Governor - Chapter 555	Appropriations 2/8/2018 - 2:00 p.m.	Budget and Taxation	Support w/Testimony
HB0600 (SB0131)	Child Abuse and Neglect - Training	Delegate McComas	First Reading Judicial Proceedings	Judiciary 2/8/2018 - 1:00 p.m.	Judicial Proceedings	Monitoring
HB0711	Driving While Impaired by Alcohol - Transporting a Minor - Penalties	Delegate Ciliberti	Unfavorable Report by Judiciary	Judiciary 2/14/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Monitoring
HB0883	Income Tax Credits - Employer Child Care Center and Employer-Provided Child Care Services	Delegate Queen	Hearing 2/21 at 1:00 p.m.	Ways and Means 2/21/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Monitoring
HB0910 (SB0548)	Education - Students with Reading Difficulties - Screenings and Interventions	Delegate Luedtke	Third Reading Passed (136-0)	Ways and Means 2/22/2018 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Monitoring
HB0941	Child Care Subsidy Program - Unemployment - Eligibility	Delegate Queen	Approved by the Governor - Chapter 396	Appropriations 2/27/2018 - 1:00 p.m.	Budget and Taxation 3/28/2018 - 1:00 p.m.	Monitoring
HB1164	Vehicle Laws - Rear-Facing Child Safety Seats - Requirement	Delegate Adams	Unfavorable Report by Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation 3/1/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Monitoring

HB1415 (SB1092)	Education - Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education	Speaker	Approved by the Governor - Chapter 361	Ways and Means Appropriations 3/7/2018 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Budget and Taxation	Monitoring
HB1476	Education - Supplemental Prekindergarten Grant - Eligibility	Delegate Valentino-Smith	Hearing 3/08 at 1:00 p.m.	Ways and Means 3/8/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Monitoring
SB0095	Condominiums and Homeowners Associations – Voting, Records, and Conflicts of Interest	Senator Benson	Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.	Judicial Proceedings 3/1/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Monitoring
SB0131 (HB0600)	Child Abuse and Neglect - Training	Senator Zirkin	Hearing 1/23 at 1:00 p.m.	Judicial Proceedings 1/23/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Monitoring
SB0132 (HB0500)	Crimes - Child Abuse and Neglect - Failure to Report	Senator Zirkin	Hearing 3/27 at 1:00 p.m.	Judicial Proceedings 1/23/2018 - 1:00 p.m.	Judiciary 3/27/2018 - 1:00 p.m.	Monitoring
SB0185 (HB0160)	Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2019)	President	Enacted under Article III, Section 52(6) of the Maryland Constitution Assigned a chapter number - Chapter 570	Budget and Taxation	Appropriations	Support w/Testimony
SB0373 (HB0547)	Education - Head Start Program - Annual Appropriation (The Ulysses Currie Act)	Senator Currie	Approved by the Governor - Chapter 556	Budget and Taxation 2/7/2018 - 1:00 p.m.	Appropriations 3/20/18 – 1:15 pm	Support w/Testimony
SB0379 (HB0430)	Education - Child Care Subsidies - Mandatory Funding Levels	Senator King	Approved by the Governor - Chapter 564	Budget and Taxation 2/14/2018 - 1:00 p.m.	Appropriations 3/29/2018 - 1:00 p.m.	Support w/Testimony
SB0422 (HB0519)	Income Tax - Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses - Income Eligibility	Senator King	Hearing 2/14 at 1:00 p.m.	Budget and Taxation 2/14/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Support
SB0548 (HB0910)	Education – Students with Reading Difficulties – Screenings and Interventions	Senator Conway	Hearing 2/21 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/21/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Monitoring
SB0590	Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners - Education Trust Fund - Allocation to Establish Judy Centers	Senator Robinson	Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Budget and Taxation 2/28/2018 - 1:00 p.m.		Monitoring
SB1092 (HB1415)	Education - Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education	President	Hearing 3/07 at 1:00 p.m. (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs)	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/7/2018 - 1:00 p.m. Budget and Taxation		Monitoring