

HOUSE BILL 1303

F5

5lr3095

By: **Delegates Mireku–North and Wims**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Care Centers – Teacher Qualifications – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to set minimal experiential
4 standards as qualifications for child care teachers teaching in a child care center;
5 altering the probationary employment qualifications for a child care teacher
6 employed in a child care center; and generally relating to the qualifications of a child
7 care teacher.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 9.5–404(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Education
15 Section 9.5–404(b)(13) and (c)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY adding to
19 Article – Education
20 Section 9.5–404(c)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
24 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



9.5–404.

(a) The State Board shall adopt rules and regulations for licensing and operating child care centers.

(b) These rules and regulations shall:

(13) Subject to subsection [(c)] (D) of this section, establish probationary employment qualifications for an individual who is applying for the first time to be a child care teacher in a child care center in the State that serves preschool or school-age children who are at least 3 years old.

(C) THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL SET MINIMAL EXPERIENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS TO QUALIFY AS A CHILD CARE TEACHER THAT REQUIRE A CHILD CARE TEACHER TO:

(1) HOLD A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA;

(2) HOLD A CERTIFICATE OF HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY;

(3) HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED COURSES FOR CREDIT AT AN ACCREDITED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT ARE APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD AS SUFFICIENT TO QUALIFY AS A PROSPECTIVE CHILD CARE TEACHER;

(4) HAVE SUCCESSFULLY BEEN EMPLOYED FOR 2 YEARS IN A POSITION OTHER THAN A CHILD CARE TEACHER FOR A REGISTERED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME, A REGISTERED LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME, OR A LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTER; OR

(5) MEET THE PROBATIONARY EMPLOYMENT QUALIFICATIONS UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

[(c)] (D) (1) The probationary employment qualifications established under subsection (b)(13) of this section shall allow an individual to be employed as a child care teacher during a probationary period if the individual:

(i) [1.] Is enrolled in approved pre-service training;

[2.] (ii) Successfully completes the required 90 hours of the approved pre-service training within 6 months after being hired; and

[3. Holds an associate degree or a bachelor's degree in:

A. Early childhood education;

B. Elementary education;

C. Child development;

D. Home economics;

E. Nursing;

F. Social work;

G. Special education; or

H. A related field approved by the Department; or

(ii) 1. Is enrolled in approved pre-service training;

2. Has successfully completed at least 45 hours of the approved pre-service training at the time the child care center hires the individual;

3. Successfully completes the remaining hours of the pre-service training within 6 months after being hired; and

4. Holds an associate degree or a bachelor's degree in a field other than a field listed under item (i)3 of this paragraph.]

(III) EARNS A CERTIFICATE OF HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY WITHIN 2 YEARS AFTER BEING HIRED.

(2) [If, at the end of the 6-month probationary period,] **A CHILD CARE CENTER SHALL TERMINATE FOR CAUSE OR REASSIGN TO A DIFFERENT NONTEACHING POSITION** an individual described in paragraph (1) of this subsection [has not completed the required pre-service training, the child care center shall, with no further cause, terminate the individual or reassign the individual to a nonteaching position] **WHO:**

(I) AT THE END OF 6 MONTHS AFTER BEING HIRED, HAS NOT COMPLETED THE REQUIRED PRE-SERVICE TRAINING; OR

(II) AT THE END OF 2 YEARS AFTER BEING HIRED, HAS NOT EARNED A CERTIFICATE OF HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.