

HOUSE BILL 1475

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By: **Delegate Feldmark**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Office of Child Care Advisory Council – Publicly Funded Prekindergarten –**
3 **Analysis and Report**
4 **(Mixed Delivery Model Viability Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the Office of Child Care Advisory Council within the State
6 Department of Education to conduct an analysis of the mixed delivery, publicly
7 funded prekindergarten system established under the Blueprint for Maryland's
8 Future; and generally relating to an analysis of the mixed delivery, publicly funded
9 prekindergarten program.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
11 That:

12 (a) The Office of Child Care Advisory Council within the State Department of
13 Education shall conduct an analysis of the mixed delivery, publicly funded prekindergarten
14 system established under Title 7, Subtitle 1A of the Education Article.

15 (b) In conducting the analysis required under subsection (a) of this section, the
16 Council shall review:

17 (1) any discrepancies between State policies that regulate private and
18 public prekindergarten providers, including differences in policies for rests or nap time,
19 substitute teachers, and the day-to-day governance of prekindergarten providers
20 identified by the Council;

21 (2) the implementation of the requirements for publicly funded
22 prekindergarten programs under Chapter 165 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024;

23 (3) the method by which private prekindergarten providers are reimbursed
24 and whether a method of payment through forward funding would be a feasible alternative;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(4) inefficiencies in the invoicing process for private prekindergarten providers and delays in private provider payments;

(5) whether the timeline for the operation of a prekindergarten educational program required by the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program under § 7–101.2(c)(1)(iii) of the Education Article matches the typical needs of prekindergarten students and parents;

(6) the feasibility of changing the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program guidelines after grant agreements have been executed and whether there are appropriate changes that should be made to the guidelines;

(7) the process through which quality rating levels in the Maryland EXCELS Program are changed, including:

(i) disciplining a prekindergarten provider for an infraction by lowering the quality rating level;

(ii) whether, when using a reduction of a prekindergarten provider's quality rating as a disciplinary measure, the reduction is commensurate with the severity of the infraction;

(iii) the process for appealing a change in a prekindergarten provider's quality rating;

(iv) the feasibility of making standardized changes in the quality rating level; and

(v) whether there are alternative methods available to address infractions, including methods to deal with infractions caused by a single employee;

(8) the administrative processes that a private prekindergarten provider must undertake in order to participate in publicly funded prekindergarten and whether the processes could be streamlined or reduced;

(9) the feasibility of streamlining or reducing the administrative processes for enrolling a child in publicly funded prekindergarten;

(10) the languages in which grant applications, agreements, guidelines, technical support, training, and professional development are offered and whether the languages offered align with those spoken by potential private prekindergarten providers;

(11) the languages in which materials provided to parents of children enrolled with a private prekindergarten provider are offered and whether the languages offered align with those spoken by the parents; and

1 (12) opportunities to pool resources among private prekindergarten
2 providers, including employee benefits, creating a centralized substitute teacher pool, and
3 other benefits that might come from economies of scale.

4 (c) In conducting the analysis required under subsection (a) of this section, the
5 Council shall solicit feedback from public prekindergarten providers, private
6 prekindergarten providers, and child care providers who have elected not to participate in
7 the publicly funded prekindergarten program.

8 (d) (1) The Council may consult additional subject matter and policy experts
9 that the Council determines are beneficial in conducting the analysis.

10 (2) The Council may establish subcommittees to carry out the analysis
11 required under this section.

12 (e) (1) On or before June 1, 2026, the Council shall submit to the State Board
13 of Education and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General
14 Assembly, an interim report on the results of its analysis, including recommendations for
15 changes to regulations, policies, and procedures to increase the efficacy of the publicly
16 funded prekindergarten program and to make the program more equitable for providers
17 and families.

18 (2) On or before December 31, 2027, the Council shall submit a final report
19 to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on
20 the results of the analysis conducted under subsection (a) of this section, any changes made
21 by the State Department of Education in response to the recommendations in the interim
22 report, and any additional recommendations from the Council for changes to regulation,
23 policies, procedures, or statute regarding the mixed delivery, publicly funded
24 prekindergarten system.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
26 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30, 2028,
27 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
28 of no further force and effect.