

HOUSE BILL 862

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CF SB 452

By: **Delegates Solomon, Guyton, Forbes, Hill, D. Jones, McCaskill, and Palakovich Carr**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Care Affordability Commission – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Child Care Affordability Commission to study and
4 make recommendations regarding child care affordability in the State; and generally
5 relating to the Child Care Affordability Commission.

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
7 That:

8 (a) There is a Child Care Affordability Commission.

9 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

10 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
11 the Senate;

12 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
13 the House;

14 (3) the Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee;

15 (4) the Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;

16 (5) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's
17 designee;

18 (6) one representative of the Maryland Family Network, designated by the
19 Executive Director of the Maryland Family Network;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(7) one representative of the Maryland State Child Care Association, designated by the President of the Maryland State Child Care Association;

(8) one representative of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association, designated by the President of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association;

(9) one representative of the Maryland Head Start Association, designated by the President of the Maryland Head Start Association;

(10) one representative of the Latino Child Care Association of Maryland, Inc., designated by the President of the Latino Child Care Association of Maryland, Inc.; and

(11) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) two parents of children eligible for scholarships from the Child Care Scholarship Program;

(ii) two representatives from child care providers that:

1. serve children under the age of 5 years; and

2. accept scholarships from the Child Care Scholarship Program;

(iii) one representative of a labor union that represents child care workers;

(iv) one representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce;

(v) one representative of the Maryland Retailers Alliance;

(vi) two representatives of large employers in the State that employ more than 1,000 employees;

(vii) two representatives of medium-sized employers in the State that employ between 500 and 1,000 employees;

(viii) two representatives of small employers in the State that employ fewer than 500 employees; and

(ix) two nonvoting representatives of national child care policy organizations with expertise in state child care financing models.

(c) The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House jointly shall designate the chair of the Commission.

(d) The Governor's Office for Children shall provide staff for the Commission.

(e) A member of the Commission:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Commission may accept charitable or philanthropic contributions.

(2) The Commission may use charitable or philanthropic contributions accepted under paragraph (1) of this subsection only to hire external consultants.

(g) The Commission shall study and make recommendations regarding child care affordability in the State, including:

(1) an identification of:

(i) obstacles to obtaining a fiscally sustainable system of child care and early childhood education that meets the needs of children living in poverty and children at risk of living in poverty;

(ii) barriers to increasing the supply of child care while offering additional supports and incentives to achieve and maintain quality;

(iii) measures to ensure the success and sustainability of the Child Care Scholarship Program for working families and any additional measures to support working families, including business tax credits and other incentives for investments in child care; and

(iv) revenue streams to create an adequate and sustainable source of funding for child care in the State;

(2) a determination of the economic threshold the State should use to cap the cost of child care for families in the State; and

(3) an examination of any other relevant issues concerning access to or the quality or affordability of child care, as determined by the Commission.

(h) (1) On or before January 1, 2026, the Commission shall submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

1 (2) On or before December 1, 2026, the Commission shall submit a final
2 report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly in accordance with §
3 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
5 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2027,
6 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
7 of no further force and effect.