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INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

COUNTY AGENCY LEGISLATIVE COMMENT REQUEST FORM

Reviewing Agency: Office of Central Services

Bill/Resolution Number: CB-14-2026

Brief Summary of the Bill/Resolution:

Please provide a brief description of the bill in your own words and do not cut and paste the bill's purpose section.

The intent of the bill is to make childcare in the County easier to obtain by expanding, facilitating and streamlining the use of County and other public facilities for before and after-school care programs.

Agency Impact:

Will this bill impact your Agency financially or operationally, or your Agency's mission?

Yes No Undeterminable at this time

If yes, please select the appropriate impact: Positive Impact Negative Impact No Impact

Discussion of Impact:

The proposed legislation may have operational impact on County agencies responsible for facility planning, programming, and property management. By expanding and facilitating the use of County and other public facilities for before- and after-school care programs, agencies may be required to evaluate the suitability of existing facilities and coordinate with program providers seeking access to public spaces.

Although the legislation is not anticipated to have a direct fiscal impact on the Agency's operating budget, it may require additional administrative coordination and planning considerations during the programming, predevelopment, conceptual, and design phases of facility projects. Agencies may need to assess whether facilities meet appropriate childcare standards, including indoor and outdoor space requirements, safety considerations, accessibility, and site conditions.

Operationally, this could involve conducting facility assessments, reviewing site conditions, and coordinating scheduling or shared use of County facilities to accommodate before- and after-school programming. Agencies may also reference established childcare facility design and assessment guidelines when determining whether spaces are suitable for children's programming.

Overall, while the legislation supports expanded access to childcare services using existing public facilities, it may require additional interagency coordination, facility evaluation, and planning considerations to ensure that spaces used for such programs meet appropriate safety and design standards and align with the Agency's operational responsibilities and mission.

The bill proposes several provisions that intersect with the responsibilities of Land Acquisition and Real Property Division (LARP), particularly those related to the identification, inventory, and potential use of County-owned or controlled property for childcare facilities, we offers the following considerations:

1. Coordination in Property Inventory and Evaluation

The bill directs the Child Care Navigator to compile and maintain an inventory of County-owned or controlled properties suitable for use as childcare facilities. LARP maintains and manages County real property records, acquisitions, dispositions, and leasing activities, it is recommended that the legislation explicitly requires coordination with OCS. LARP, Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and Facilities and Maintenance (FOM) should be included in the development and ongoing management of this inventory. Involvement from OCS (LARP/CIP/FOM) will ensure that property data, ownership status, restrictions, and encumbrances are accurately identified and reflected for County-Owned and operated facilities.

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2. Suitability and Compliance Review

While identifying potential public spaces for childcare use is beneficial, the suitability of properties must be evaluated based on zoning requirements, building conditions, environmental considerations, accessibility, life-safety codes, and any existing contractual or operational limitations. LARP recommends that the bill includes a detailed process for inventory development outlining how the Department of Family Services will engage the Office of Central Services. This process should establish a formal review with relevant County agencies to assess feasibility before any property is designated as potential childcare sites.

3. Implications for Existing County Operations and Property Management

Coordination with LARP will be necessary to ensure that property records, site availability, existing leases, and operational constraints are accurately reflected. Additionally, LARP's involvement will help ensure that any evaluation of County facilities for potential childcare use considers existing property management obligations, compatibility with current uses, and any legal or real estate limitations associated with the County's real property portfolio.

4. Capital Planning Coordination

The bill's requirement that the Office of Management and Budget consider the inclusion of childcare facilities in County capital projects is a constructive step toward long-term planning. LARP recommends that a feasibility study be conducted prior to implementation to evaluate the availability and suitability of existing County-owned facilities for potential childcare use. Once the current facilities' capacity and capability are fully understood, the County can then more accurately assess the budgetary capacity required to support these initiatives and any future capital investments

Fiscal Impact:

Currently, there are many variables to reasonably estimate a rough order of magnitude of the financial impact on County operations without a more detailed facility assessment. Implementation of the legislation may result in direct facility-related costs associated with the use of County or other public facilities for licensed childcare programming, including utilities and building services such as water, gas, electricity, and telephone and internet connectivity. Occupancy costs will generally correlate with the amount of indoor space allocated for the program, while outdoor space, though important for child development, typically has a less direct relationship to utility-related costs.

In addition, prior to program implementation, agencies may need to assess existing facility conditions to determine whether spaces meet childcare licensing and safety requirements, and in some cases minor improvements or modifications may be necessary. Until these facility assessments and program requirements are defined, the full operational and financial impact cannot be quantified, however we estimate that special design changes for parking and drop off feasibility study may range from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Agency Position Recommendation:

- Support Oppose Support with Amendments No position.

Please specify any suggested amendments in the space below?

The Office of Central Services (OCS) supports the intent of CB-14-2026 expanding access to before and after-school childcare by facilitating the use of County and other public facilities; however, the Agency recommends support with amendments due to potential fiscal and facilities-related operational impacts associated with occupancy costs, facility readiness, and ongoing building maintenance. To address these concerns, the Agency recommends consideration of amendments or legislation that would complement the facility-based approach with a Child Care Voucher or Subsidy Program to help eligible low-income working families access quality childcare while reducing reliance on direct facility expansion.

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The legislation should clarify that contracted operators are responsible for program staffing, equipment, furnishings, supplies, security, and day-to-day operational management of Child Development Centers, ensuring that facilities remain safe, sanitary, and conducive to the developmental needs of children while minimizing additional operational burdens on County facilities.

Additional Information:

Has your agency been contacted by the State Department of Legislative Services staff regarding this proposal?

Yes No

If yes, please provide comments about the discussion.

Agency Contact:

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