

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2026 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-014-2026

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Oriadha

Introduced by Council Members Oriadha, Hunter, Olson, Dernoga, Blegay, Fisher,
Adams, Ivey and Adams-Stafford

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction March 31, 2026

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Child Care Expansion and Quality Improvement Act

3 For the purpose of expanding the availability of and quality of child care in the County; defining
4 certain terms; establishing a County Child Care Navigator; requiring a Strategic Plan for Child
5 Care and annual reporting on program implementation; expanding, facilitating and streamlining
6 the use of County and other public facilities by child care and before and after-school care
7 programs; and generally relating to child care and before and after-school care programs.

8 BY adding:

9 SUBTITLE 5C. EARLY CHILDHOOD

10 EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

11 Sections 5C-101, 5C-102, 5C-103, 5C-104, 5C-105,

12 5C-106,

13 The Prince George's County Code

14 (2023 Edition; 2025 Supplement).

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
16 Maryland, that Sections 5C-101, 5C-102, 5C-103, 5C-104, 5C-105, and 5C-106 of the Prince
17 George's County Code be and the same are hereby added:

18 **SUBTITLE 5C. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE.**

19 **DIVISION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

20 **Sec. 5C-101. Legislative Findings.**

1 (a) The County Council finds that:

2 (1) child care capacity in the County has been declining in recent years, down five
3 percent (5%) between 2022 and 2025;

4 (2) the cost of child care in the County has been increasing, going up over 20%
5 between 2017 and 2025

6 (3) duplicative State and County inspection requirements can prove challenging for
7 operators of child care programs and before and after-school care programs, delaying or
8 preventing the addition of new child care capacity in the County;

9 (4) public buildings can efficiently provide desirable and affordable locations for
10 child care programs and after-school care programs;

11 (5) early childhood education in child care is critical in fostering holistic
12 development, establishing a foundation for lifelong learning, and nurturing essential social,
13 emotional, and cognitive skills before kindergarten;

14 (6) access to affordable child care boosts local economic stability by enabling parents
15 to join or remain in the workforce, supports healthy childhood development and school readiness
16 while reducing family stress; and

17 (7) County investment in expanding the availability of child care will yield high
18 returns through increased productivity and future economic contributions.

19 **Sec. 5C-102. Definitions.**

20 (a) As used in and for the purposes of this Subdivision, the following words and phrases
21 shall have the meanings assigned to them herein:

22 (1) **Before and after-school care program** means an operation that provides care
23 before and after, or before or after, the customary school day and during school holidays, for at
24 least two hours a day, three days a week, to children who attend prekindergarten through grade
25 six.

26 (2) **Child** means an individual who is younger than 13 years old who is not disabled,
27 or an individual younger than 19 years old who is disabled.

28 (3) **Child care.**

29 (A) Child care means the care or supervision of a child that is approved, licensed or
30 license-exempt under Maryland law by an individual other than the parent, stepparent, guardian,
31 or caretaker for less than a 24-hour day and for which compensation is paid.

1 (B) Child care does not mean:

2 (i) group lessons or classes providing specialized training in a specific subject,
 3 unless provided in a pattern indicating that a child care facility is being operated or that custodial
 4 supervision of children is being provided in addition to the specialized training;

5 (ii) scouting, sports, or youth club activities;

6 (iii) school-age recreational or supplementary education programs operated by a
 7 nonpublic school, if custodial supervision is not the primary purpose of the program;

8 (iv) supervisory services to children provided by a church, health club, health
 9 provider, or similar sponsor in support of an occasional or intermittent parental activity or
 10 service offered by the sponsor while parents are on the same premises as the services to children
 11 and are immediately available to the children; or

12 (v) programs primarily designed for the religious training of children, provided
 13 on a weekly basis or for a short period in the summer, commonly known as Sunday schools or
 14 Bible schools.

15 (4) **Child care center** means a facility providing child care that is:

16 (A) Licensed pursuant to COMAR 13A.16;

17 (B) Operated under a letter of compliance issued pursuant to COMAR 13A.17;

18 (C) Licensed by any branch of the military under applicable military child care

19 (5) **Child care program** means:

20 (A) a child care center; or

21 (B) a family child care home.

22 (6) **Eligible child care expenses** means expenses for receiving child care within a
 23 child care center or family child care home located in Prince George’s County;

24 (7) **Department** means the Department of Social Services.

25 (8) **Family.**

26 (A) Family means the family unit consisting of:

27 (i) One or more adults and children, related by blood, marriage, adoption,
 28 or legal guardianship, and residing in the same household; or

29 (ii) Adults with physical custody of a child, related or unrelated, who are
 30 residing in the same household.

31 (B) Family includes unrelated adults with children in common who reside

1 together, whether either has other children residing in the household.

2 (C) Family does not include:

3 (i) Unrelated adults with no children in common residing together; or

4 (ii) Related adults, other than spouses, residing together.

5 (7) **Family Child Care Home.**

6 (A) Family child care home means a residence, other than the home of the child
7 for whom CCS is requested, in which family child care is provided.

8 (B) Family child care home includes a:

9 (i) Family child care home registered to operate pursuant to COMAR
10 13A.15 or applicable military child care regulations; or

11 (ii) Large family child care home registered to operate pursuant to
12 COMAR 13A.18.

13 **DIVISION 2. CHILD CARE EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT.**

14 **Sec. 5C-103. Child Care Navigator.**

15 (a) The County Executive shall designate a Child Care Navigator within the Department of
16 Social Services to:

17 (1) assist child care providers with matters related to licensing and inspection of
18 facilities used for child care programs in the County;

19 (2) promote coordination and collaboration among County agencies and departments
20 to expand child care opportunities throughout the County;

21 (3) serve as a liaison between County government and the public on child care-related
22 issues;

23 (4) prepare and maintain the inventory of County properties suitable for use as child
24 care established in Section 5A-105; and

25 (5) prepare a Strategic Plan for Child Care that includes:

26 (A) specific goals and implementation strategies for improving early childhood
27 services and child care provider assistance and counseling;

28 (B) planning for new child care services in public space, including in County
29 property, public school projects, and Parks and Recreation facilities;

30 (C) planning for expansion of child care space through public-private
31 partnerships;

1 (D) research on the supply, demand, and affordability of child care throughout
2 the County;

3 (E) a plan to improve kindergarten readiness for children through enhanced early
4 care and education services.

5 (b) Annual report. By February 1 each year, the Officer must submit to the County Council
6 and County Executive an annual report on:

7 (1) the Navigator’s activities, accomplishments, plans, and objectives; and

8 (2) steps taken to implement the Strategic Plan for Child Care, Early Care, and
9 Education in the preceding year.

10 **DIVISION 3. CHILD CARE IN PUBLIC SPACES.**

11 **Sec. 5C-104. Use of County and other public facilities.**

12 (a) The Child Care Navigator shall:

13 (1) coordinate with the appropriate County agencies and other public entities in the
14 County to facilitate the use of County-owned buildings and other public facilities, including but
15 not limited to schools, recreation centers, libraries, and community centers, for child care
16 programs and before and after school care programs;

17 (2) develop standardized memoranda-of-understanding (MOUs) to allow child care
18 programs and before and after school care programs to operate in County facilities without site-
19 by-site negotiation; and

20 (3) work with the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement to ensure
21 a streamlined inspection process for operators of child care programs and before and after school
22 care programs operating in public spaces.

23 **Sec. 5C-105. Inventory of County property suitable for use as child care.**

24 (a) The Child Care Navigator shall compile and maintain an inventory of County-owned
25 or controlled property that is determined to be suitable for use as child care.

26 (b) The suitability of property for use as child care shall be evaluated based on:

27 (1) local availability of and demand for child care in the area of the project; and

28 (2) the compatibility of child care with existing uses of the property;

29 (3) the condition and accessibility of the property;

30 (4) the cost associated with any modifications to the property necessary for use as
31 child care;

- (5) conformity of child care facilities to applicable zoning and land use plans; and
- (6) any additional criteria deemed useful in making the assessment.

(c) The inventory shall be updated annually.

Sec. 5C-106. Child Care facilities impact statements.

(a) For each applicable capital project in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) during facility planning, the Office of Management and Budget shall include in or transmit with the CIP an analysis of:

- (1) the feasibility of including child care facilities in the project; and
- (2) what capital or operating budget modifications, if any, would be needed to include child care facilities in the project.

(b) The child care analysis submitted by the Office of Management and Budget should discuss at least the following issues related to the capital project:

- (1) compatibility of child care with the underlying project;
- (2) local availability of and demand for child care in the area of the project; and
- (3) conformity of child care facilities to applicable zoning and land use plans.

(c) Each child care analysis under this Section should assign highest priority to the provisions of high quality child care in areas where the provision of child care may not otherwise be financially feasible due to large numbers of low-income parents and the resulting need for significant subsidies.

(d) As used in this section, applicable capital project means any proposed building project administered by the Office of Central Services.

(e) In performing its analysis, the Office of Management and Budget should consult the Department of Health, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Family Services, the Planning Board, and any other County department or agency with expertise in child care.

(f) The Council may in the annual budget ordinance exempt from this Section a capital project or category of capital projects which by their nature do not require child care analysis.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this

1 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such
2 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,
3 or section.

4 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)
5 calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this 21st day of April , 2026.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Krystal Oriadha
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive

KEY:
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.
Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.

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