

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2026 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-016-2026

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Oriadha

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Early Start Child Care Scholarship Program

3 For the purpose of establishing and administering a scholarship program to assist modest-income
4 families in obtaining child care services for 0 to 3-year-olds in Prince George’s County, subject
5 to certain conditions; and generally relating to early childhood education and child care.

6 BY adding:

7 SUBTITLE 5C. EARLY CHILDHOOD

8 EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE.

9 Section 5C-112,

10 The Prince George's County Code

11 (2023 Edition; 2025 Supplement).

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
13 Maryland, that Section 5C-112 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same is hereby
14 added:

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

16 **DIVISION 5. EARLY START CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

17 **Sec. 5C-112. Prince George’s County Early Start Child Care Scholarship Program.**

18 (a) Early Start Child Care Scholarship Program Established. Subject to the allocation of
19 funding, families domiciled inside the beltway (the area in Prince George’s County between the
20 border with the District of Columbia and the Capital Beltway) who qualify and are approved in
21 accordance with the requirements of Subsection (b), below, shall receive a child care scholarship

1 as prescribed in Subsection (c), below, for eligible child care expenses.

2 (b) Program Requirements.

3 (1) Income eligibility. A family shall only be eligible to receive a child care scholarship
4 authorized by this Division to compensate for eligible child care expenses if the family has a
5 household income of less than 30% of the median family income for the Washington-Arlington-
6 Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Area, as published annually by the U.S. Department
7 of Housing and Urban Development.

8 (2) Child eligibility. A child for which a family receives a child care scholarship shall be
9 no older than 3 years of age. A family is only eligible to receive a child care scholarship for a
10 maximum of two children per household.

11 (3) Application and approval. A family shall only be eligible to receive a child care
12 scholarship to compensate for eligible child care expenses if the family successfully completes
13 an application process prescribed by the Department for a child care scholarship for the child for
14 which the family is incurring or will incur eligible child care expenses.

15 (4) Administration. The Early Start Child Care Scholarship Program shall be
16 administered by the Department and disbursements shall be made by the Office of Finance in
17 accordance with regulations prescribed by the Department and approved by the County Council
18 as set forth in Subsection (d), below.

19 (c) Early Start Child Care Scholarship.

20 (1) The Prince George's County Early Start Child Care Scholarship Fund is hereby
21 established as a nonlapsing fund that shall not revert to the County fund balance at the end of
22 each fiscal year and shall solely be used for the purpose of awarding child care scholarships to
23 eligible families for eligible child care expenses pursuant to this Division.

24 (2) Scholarship amount determination and duration. Each child care scholarship award
25 shall be for the duration of a 12-month period and must be applied for annually. The maximum
26 12-month amount per child that the Department is authorized to award for a child care
27 scholarship authorized by this Division is \$3000 per child. The precise amount of each award
28 shall be determined in accordance with a formula established by the Department and prescribed
29 in regulations authorized and mandated pursuant to Subsection (d), below. The award
30 determination of child care scholarships shall be based on a need-based scale of higher amounts
31 awarded to families with lower proportionate median household income levels.

1 (d) Regulations authorized, mandatory.

2 The Department shall propose regulations that implement this Division no later than
3 September 1, 2026 for approval or modification by resolution of the County Council, provided
4 such regulations are not inconsistent with this Division. Such regulations may be modified from
5 time to time by proposal of the Department subject to approval or modification by Council
6 resolution.

7 (e) Reporting. By August 31 of each year, the Department, in coordination with the Office of
8 Finance, shall provide an annual written summary to the County Executive and County Council
9 on the progress of the Early Start Child Care Scholarship Program for the previous fiscal year,
10 including, but not limited to including, non-individual aggregate data on scholarship
11 expenditures, administrative costs, and recommended policy improvements.

12 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby
13 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,
14 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of
15 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining
16 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this
17 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such
18 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,
19 or section.

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

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 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.