

Chapter 740

(Senate Bill 293)

AN ACT concerning

Child Care Subsidy Program – Alternative Methodology – Report

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date on methodologies to set child care subsidy reimbursement rates in the Child Care Subsidy Program; requiring the report to contain certain information; and generally relating to the Child Care Subsidy Program.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That, on or before October 1, 2017, the State Department of Education shall report to the Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on:

- (1) whether an alternative methodology for setting child care subsidy reimbursement rates in the Child Care Subsidy Program should replace the market rate survey or be used in addition to the market rate survey;
- (2) the benefits and constraints of various alternative reimbursement rate setting methodologies;
- (3) how other states set child care subsidy reimbursement rates;
- (4) feedback on reimbursement rate setting methodologies from stakeholder meetings of the Office of Child Care Advisory Council, resource and referral agencies, child care worker organizations, and other appropriate entities; and
- (5) what alternative reimbursement rate setting methodology should be used or, if no alternative is recommended, whether there are ways to modify the market rate survey method to better measure the actual cost of child care and the cost of improvements to the quality of child care.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor, May 25, 2017.