

HB0525/463621/1

BY: Ways and Means Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 525

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “**and Ruth**” and substitute “**, Ruth, Wilkins, Ebersole, Hornberger, Wells, Charles, Fair, Miller, Vogel, Wu, Griffith, Attar, and Buckel**”; in line 8, strike “9.5–1106” and substitute “9.5–1104”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 8, strike “**MAY**” and substitute “SHALL”; after line 10, insert:

“(4) THE ADVISORY GROUP SHALL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE OUTDOOR PRESCHOOL LICENSING ADVISORY TEAM ESTABLISHED BY THE EASTERN REGION ASSOCIATION OF FOREST AND NATURE SCHOOLS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS WITH EXPERTISE IN OUTDOOR, NATURE–BASED EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE.”;

in line 18, after “**(1)**” insert “**ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 31, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BEGIN TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH § 9.5–1102(A) AND (B) OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

(2);

in line 19, strike “**2023**” and substitute “**2024**”; in the same line, strike “**3**” and substitute “**4 SCHOOL**”; in line 20, strike “**(2)**” and substitute “**(3)**”; in the same line, strike “**THE**” and substitute “**EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**”; strike in their entirety lines 23 through 25, inclusive; and after line 25, insert:

“(4) IF THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES FEWER THAN 5 APPLICATIONS THAT MEET THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR LICENSURE AND OPERATION OF OUTDOOR, NATURE-BASED EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT FOR APPROVAL ALL APPLICANTS THAT QUALIFY.”.

On page 3, in line 1, strike “EXISTING” and substitute “:

(I) EXISTING”;

in line 2, after “PROGRAMS” insert **“THAT ARE LICENSED AS CAMPS BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; AND**

(II) EXISTING LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS OR REGISTERED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE MARYLAND EXCELS PROGRAM AND ARE SEEKING TO EXPAND INTO NATURE-BASED EARLY LEARNING”;

in line 3, after “SHALL” insert **“, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE,”**; in line 11, after “(C)” insert **“(1)”**; in the same line, after “DEPARTMENT” insert **“SHALL ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE LICENSURE AND OPERATION OF OUTDOOR, NATURE-BASED EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS.**

(2) THE REGULATIONS SHALL INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR:

(I) BATHROOM USE AND DIAPER CHANGING;

(II) HAND WASHING;

(III) SHELTERING DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER;

(IV) CORRECT CHILD-TO-STAFF RATIOS FOR THE OUTDOOR SETTING;

(V) THE SAFE STORAGE OF AND READY ACCESS TO MEDICATION;

(VI) ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES;

(VII) THE SAFE STORAGE AND PREPARATION OF FOOD;

(VIII) ESTABLISHING SAFE BOUNDARIES IN UNENCLOSED OUTDOOR SPACES AND BOUNDARIES AROUND HAZARDS;

(IX) PROPER OUTDOOR CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN;

(X) ACCESS TO POTABLE DRINKING WATER; AND

(XI) APPROPRIATE SLEEPING AREAS FOR NAPS.

(3) IN ADOPTING RULES AND REGULATIONS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT”;

after line 12, insert:

“(4) IN ADOPTING RULES AND REGULATIONS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH STAKEHOLDERS THAT HAVE EXPERTISE IN PROVIDING OUTDOOR, NATURE-BASED EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE OUTDOOR

(Over)

PRESCHOOL LICENSING ADVISORY TEAM ESTABLISHED BY THE EASTERN REGION ASSOCIATION OF FOREST AND NATURE SCHOOLS.”;

strike in their entirety lines 14 through 17, inclusive; in line 18, strike “2023” and substitute “2025”; in the same line, strike “2024” and substitute “2026”; in line 23, strike “AND”; in line 25, after “PROGRAM” insert “;

(3) THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS WHO ENROLLED IN THE MARYLAND EXCELS PROGRAM;

(4) THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE PILOT PROGRAM WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND

(5) THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE PILOT PROGRAM SERVED BY THE INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM”;

and in line 26, strike “2025” and substitute “2027”.

On pages 3 and 4, strike beginning with the colon in line 29 on page 3 down through “RECOMMENDATIONS” in line 3 on page 4 and substitute “RECOMMENDATIONS”.

On page 4, in line 3, after “FOR” insert “CONTINUING,”; in the same line, after “MODIFYING” insert a comma; strike in their entirety lines 5 through 10, inclusive; in line 12, strike “3” and substitute “5”; in the same line, strike “and 6 months”; and in line 13, strike “December 31, 2026” and substitute “June 30, 2028”.