



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL:	House Bill 1550 - Child Care Providers – Notice of Allegations of Child Abuse or Neglect (Aiden's Law)
SPONSOR:	Delegate Arikan
HEARING DATE:	March 5, 2020
COMMITTEE:	Judiciary
CONTACT:	Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411
<hr/>	
POSITION:	SUPPORT
<hr/>	

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1550 - Child Care Providers – Notice of Allegations of Child Abuse or Neglect (Aiden's Law)**, which requires family child care providers and child care centers to provide notice to parents or guardians of all children under their care of a report or incident of suspected child abuse or neglect that is alleged to have occurred on their premises. The bill also requires the designee of the State Superintendent of Schools to ensure that the specified notice is provided.

Parents have a right to know about possible threats to the safety and well-being of their children. In Prince George's County, there are 777 family child care providers and 6,094 child care centers that can provide services to a maximum of 15,110 children. Statewide there are 5,629 family child care providers, 43,497 child care centers with a maximum capacity of 108,994 children.¹ In 2018, 7,743 children in Maryland were victims of abuse or neglect, occurring at a rate of 5.8 per 1,000 children.² Given this rate of abuse, we must ensure that parents can rest easy knowing that

Under the bill, the notice must be provided within 24 hours after having knowledge of a report or of when suspected child abuse or neglect is alleged to have occurred. The bill also ensures that it will not interfere with ongoing investigations by providing that notice cannot be provided if the local department of law enforcement agency that received said report advises that it would interfere.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1550** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

¹ *Child Care Demographics 2019*, Maryland Family Network, April 2019, pg. 5, Accessed on March 5, 2020, at http://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/MFN_demographics2019.pdf

² *Child Maltreatment 2018*, Administration for Children and Families, Jan. 15, 2020, pg. 29-30, Accessed on March 4, 2020, at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2018.pdf>