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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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SPONSOR STATEMENT

**Senate Bill 436 – Child Care Centers – Employee Qualifications –
Requirements and Applications**

February 11, 2021

Mister Chairman and Members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

Shortages of day care providers is a serious problem in Maryland and throughout the country. Senate Bill 436 will make a small step forward in helping to recruit and retain quality day care providers.

Under current law, a candidate for teaching in a day care center must complete 90 hours of preservice training prior to being hired. A candidate who holds an Associate or a Bachelor's degree can apply to the Office of Child Care for a variance to allow them to begin teaching if they have completed 45 hours of the preservice training.

Senate Bill 436 will allow candidates with an Associate or Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education or a related field to complete the 90 hours of preservice training within six months of employment. Related fields include: Elementary Education, Child Development, Home Economics, Nursing, Social Work, Special Education, or a field approved by the department.

Senate Bill 436 will also allow candidates with an Associate or Bachelor's degree in a non-related field to begin employment once they have completed 45 hours of preservice training. They would then have to complete the remaining 45 hours within six months. No variance from the Office of Child Care would be needed.

As Child Care Center Directors work to fill vacancies, this bill will help them recruit quality candidates and get them into the classroom with fewer delays, and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 436.