

6 - HB 21 - HGO - Res. Child Care Program Prof. Bo

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Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals

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2022 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: HB 21
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Support

TITLE: State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals – Certification – Membership and Official Seal

BILL ANALYSIS: HB 21 will allow the State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals (the “Board”) to remove one member, appointed by the State’s Subcabinet, from the Board. The Board currently consists of 12 members, of which six are representatives appointed by the secretaries of various State agencies involved in the licensing and monitoring of Residential Child Care Programs. The remaining six are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate of the Maryland General Assembly. Of these six members appointed by the Governor, three are Residential Child Care Program Administrators (RCCPA), one is a Residential Child and Youth Care Professional (RCYCP), and two are consumers.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: This bill seeks to amend the composition of the Board’s membership by removing the one State Subcabinet member appointed by the Secretary that was originally held by the Governor’s Office for Children (GOC). Since being restructured, the GOC reassigned the Subcabinet member position to the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD). This appointee represents a State agency outside of the area of licensing and monitoring of residential children services and residential childcare facilities. There are currently two members of the Board appointed by the Secretary of Health, representing the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), both of which provide licensing and funding of residential services to youth and children in residential childcare agencies. These two Board members are active participants in serving the mission of the Board as well as serving the population of children with disabilities.

This proposed revision will amend the number of Board members from 12 to 11, which will allow the Board to have an odd number of voting members, thereby making it easier to achieve a majority of votes on significant legislative and administrative matters that impact the quality of services provided to the youth being served, without State agencies’ conflict of interest. The

current even number of Board members make voting problematic, especially when those members who work for other State agencies frequently abstain from voting, making it difficult to obtain a majority. The removal of this Subcabinet member will not have any impact on the Board's functioning or quorum requirement to conduct business.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. The Board respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 21 so that the State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals can continue to ensure that Maryland's children receive high quality care in residential child care programs, which provide services to meet their needs and support them becoming productive members of society.

Thank you for considering this testimony. The Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals is respectfully requesting a favorable report on HB 21. For more information, please contact the Board's Executive Director, Darlene Ham at (410) 764-5991 or Darlene.ham1@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.