

**Introduction**

**MEMORANDUM**

March 9, 2018

TO: County Council

FROM: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney *A. Mihill*

SUBJECT: **Introduction:** Bill 9-18, Child Care – Ready to Learn Initiative - Established

Bill 9-18, Child Care – Ready to Learn Initiative - Established, sponsored by Lead Sponsor Council President Riemer, is scheduled to be introduced on March 13, 2018. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for April 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Bill 9-18 would require the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a Ready to Learn Initiative, require the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate with the Office of Procurement to establish an open solicitation for early care and education slots for providers that meet certain requirements, and require the Office of Legislative Oversight to submit an annual report.

This packet contains:

Bill 9-18

Legislative Request Report

Circle #

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Bill No. 9-18  
Concerning: Child Care – Ready to Learn Initiative - Established  
Revised: 3/12/2018 Draft No. 4  
Introduced: March 13, 2018  
Expires: September 13, 2019  
Enacted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive: \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunset Date: None  
Ch. \_\_\_\_\_, Laws of Mont. Co. \_\_\_\_\_

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Lead Sponsor: Council President Riemer

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**AN ACT** to:

- (a) require the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a Ready to Learn Initiative;
- (b) require the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate with the Office of Procurement to establish an open solicitation for early care and education slots for providers that meet certain requirements;
- (c) require the Office of Legislative Oversight to submit an annual report; and
- (d) generally amend County law related to child care.

By adding

Montgomery County Code  
Chapter 10A, Child Care.  
Article 6  
Sections 10A 12, 10A-13, 10A-14, 10A-15, and 10A-16

<b>Boldface</b>	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

*The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:*

1           **Sec. 1. Article 6 (Sections 10A-12, 10A-13, 10A-14, 10A-15, and 10A-16) of**  
 2 **Chapter 10A is added as follows:**

3                                   **Chapter 10A. Child Care**

4                                   **Article 6. Ready to Learn Initiative.**

5 **10A-12. Definitions.**

6           In this Article, the following words have the meanings indicated:

7           Department means the Department of Health and Human Services.

8           Director means the Director of the Department or the Director’s designee.

9           EXCELS mean the state of Maryland’s Excellence Counts in Early Learning and  
 10 School Age Care quality rating and improvement system for child care.

11           Open solicitation means the method of awarding a contract under County Code  
 12 Section 11B-15.

13 **10A-13. Ready to Learn Initiative established.**

14           The Department must develop and administer a Ready to Learn Initiative that  
 15 serves families that earn at or less than 200% of the federal poverty level.

16 **10A-14. Open solicitation process for early care and education.**

17           (a) The Director must coordinate with the Office of Procurement to establish  
 18 an open solicitation for full day early care and education slots.

19           (b) The open solicitation must be available to any licensed child care provider  
 20 and must allow for a higher amount of funds awarded if the provider:

21                   (1) publishes in EXCELS at a Level 3 or higher within one year of the  
 22 date the contract is awarded or meets criteria the Director finds is  
 23 equivalent;

24                   (2) has state or national accreditation; or

25                   (3) meets other requirements as specified in Executive Regulation.

26 **10A-15. Annual report.**

27 By January 31 of each year, the Office of Legislative Oversight must provide to  
28 the Council a report comparing usage data and outcomes of early care and education  
29 programs in the County. In collecting usage data, the Office must consult with  
30 Montgomery County Public Schools, the Department of Health and Human Services,  
31 and other stakeholders.

32 **10A-16. Regulations.**

33 The County Executive may adopt regulations under Method (2) to implement  
34 this Article.

35 *Approved:*

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Hans D. Riemer, President, County Council Date

37 *Approved:*

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Isiah Leggett, County Executive Date

39 *This is a correct copy of Council action.*

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Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq., Clerk of the Council Date

## LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Bill 9-18

*Child Care – Ready to Learn Initiative - Established*

<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	Bill 9-18 would require the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a Ready to Learn Initiative, require the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate with the Office of Procurement to establish an open solicitation for early care and education slots for providers that meet certain requirements, and require the Office of Legislative Oversight to submit an annual report.
<b>PROBLEM:</b>	The demand for quality child care exceeds supply in the County.
<b>GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:</b>	To make affordable, quality, enriching child care available to all families.
<b>COORDINATION:</b>	Department of Health and Human Services
<b>FISCAL IMPACT:</b>	To be requested.
<b>ECONOMIC IMPACT:</b>	To be requested.
<b>EVALUATION:</b>	To be requested.
<b>EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE:</b>	N/A
<b>SOURCE OF INFORMATION:</b>	Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney, 240-777-7815
<b>APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES:</b>	N/A
<b>PENALTIES:</b>	N/A

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