

Bill No. 11-15
Concerning: Child Care Expansion and
Quality Enhancement Initiative
Revised: 5/5/2015 Draft No. 5
Introduced: March 3, 2015
Enacted: May 5, 2015
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: None
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Navarro and Riemer
Co-Sponsors: Council Vice President Floreen, Councilmember Elrich, Council President Leventhal,
and Councilmembers Berliner, Katz, Rice, and Hucker

AN ACT to:

- (1) require the Executive to designate an employee in the Department of Health and Human Services as a Child Care and Early Education Officer and specify the duties of the Child Care and Early Education Officer;
- (2) create a Child Care Expansion and Quality Enhancement Initiative in the Department of Health and Human Services;
- [[~~(2)~~]] (3) specify the duties to implement the Initiative; [[and]]
- [[~~(3)~~]] (4) establish an Early Childhood Coordinating Council and specify the duties of the Coordinating Council; and
- (5) generally amend County law regarding child care, human rights, and administration.

By amending

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 2, Administration
Section 2-42A

By renaming and adding

Chapter 10A, Child Care
Article 1, Child Care
Sections 10A-1 and 10A-2

Article 2, Early Childhood Coordinating Council
Section 10A-3

By renumbering

Chapter 10A, Child Care
Sections 10A-1, 10A-2, 10A-3, 10A-4, 10A-5, and 10A-6

Chapter 27, Human Rights and Civil Liberties
Sections 27-62 and 27-62A

By amending and adding
Chapter 44, Schools and Camps
Sections 44-3, 44-4, and 44-4A

Boldface	<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:

Sec. 1. Section 2-42A is amended as follows:

2-42A. Functions, powers, and duties.

* * *

(d) Duties of the Department.

* * *

(3) The Department provides staff support to:

* * *

(M) the Advisory Board for the Montgomery Cares Program;
[[and]]

(N) the Early Childhood Coordinating Council; and

(O) any program created to achieve health equity among
County residents.

**Sec. ~~[[1]]~~ 2. Chapter 10A is renamed and Article 1 of Chapter 10A
~~[[Section]]~~ Sections 10A-1 and 10A-2 is added as follows:**

Chapter 10A. [Child Day Care Facilities Loan Program] Child Care.

Article 1. Child Care [[Expansion and Quality Enhancement]].

10A-1. Child Care and Early Education Officer.

(a) [[Definitions]] Definition. In this Section, Officer means the Child Care
and Early Education Officer.

(b) The County Executive must designate an employee in the Department
of Health and Human Services to serve as a Child Care and Early
Education Officer. Among other duties, the Officer must:

(1) promote coordination and collaboration among county agencies
and departments to expand child care opportunities throughout
the County;

(2) (A) administer the selection of providers in public space, after
consulting with the Montgomery County Board of

- 28 Education where school facilities are to be used, to the
 29 extent authorized by State law; and
 30 (B) to the extent not authorized by State law, monitor and
 31 support the coordination between the Department of
 32 Health and Human Services and the Office of Community
 33 Use of Public Facilities to administer the selection of
 34 providers in public space, including in Montgomery
 35 County Public School facilities]], to the extent authorized
 36 by State law]];
- 37 (3) monitor and support the implementation of the Child Care
 38 Expansion and Quality Enhancement Initiative described in
 39 Section 10A-2;
- 40 (4) provide staff support for the Early Childhood Coordinating
 41 Council established in Section 10A-3;
- 42 (5) monitor and support the implementation of the Early Childhood
 43 Initiative as developed by the Coordinating Council;
- 44 (6) serve as a liaison between County government and the public on
 45 child care-related issues; and
- 46 (7) prepare a Strategic Plan for Child Care by May 5, 2016 that
 47 includes:
- 48 (A) specific goals and implementation strategies for improving
 49 early childhood services and child care provider assistance
 50 and counseling;
- 51 (B) planning for new child care services in public space,
 52 including in public school projects;
- 53 (C) planning for expansion of child care space through public-
 54 private partnerships;

- 55 (D) research on the supply, demand, and affordability of child
- 56 care throughout the County;
- 57 (E) a plan for a countywide universal child care and preschool
- 58 program that provides every child an opportunity to
- 59 participate in a high-quality preschool, early care, and
- 60 education program; and
- 61 (F) a plan to improve readiness for children entering
- 62 kindergarten through enhanced early care and education
- 63 services.

64 (c) Annual report. By February 1 each year, the Officer must submit to the

65 County Council and County Executive an annual report on:

- 66 (1) its activities, accomplishments, plans, and objectives;
- 67 (2) the implementation of the Child Care Expansion and Quality
- 68 Enhancement Initiative, including the number of family child
- 69 care providers serviced and types of services provided;
- 70 (3) steps taken to implement the Strategic Plan for Child Care, Early
- 71 Care, and Education in the preceding year; and
- 72 (4) the activities, accomplishments, plans, and objectives of the Early
- 73 Childhood Coordinating Council, including implementation of
- 74 the Early Childhood Initiative.

75 **10A-2. Child Care Expansion and Quality Enhancement Initiative.**

76 (a) Definitions. In this Article, the following words have the meanings

77 indicated:

78 Department means the Department of Health and Human Services.

79 Director means the Director of the Department or the Director's

80 designee.

81 Family child care provider has the same meaning as in Section 5-550 of
 82 the Family Law Article of the Maryland Code or any successor
 83 provision.

84 (b) Initiative. The Department must:

85 (1) at least quarterly, hold an information session:

86 (A) for prospective family child care providers, on the steps
 87 necessary to become registered or licensed by the State;
 88 and

89 (B) for licensed family child care providers, on the steps
 90 necessary to achieve State, regional, or national
 91 accreditation;

92 (2) provide technical assistance and coordinate business training to
 93 family child care providers;

94 (3) [[if requested, conduct a site-visit for potential family child care
 95 providers to provide feedback and assistance to obtain state
 96 licensing]] if a potential family child care provider is pursuing
 97 registration or licensing and has submitted an application to the
 98 State Office of Child Care, provide technical assistance and
 99 general program support to the provider; and

100 (4) provide services in Spanish, and other languages as requested, in
 101 a culturally competent manner[;]

102 (5) conduct an annual assessment of child care needs in the County;
 103 and

104 (6) prepare an annual report, as required in subsection (c)].

105 (c) Regulations. The Executive may adopt regulations under Method (2) to
 106 administer the Initiative.

- 107 [(d) Annual report. By February 1 each year, the Department must submit to
- 108 the County Council an annual report on:
- 109 (1) its activities, accomplishments, plans, and objectives;
- 110 (2) the results of the annual child care needs assessment; and
- 111 (3) the number of family child care providers serviced and types of
- 112 services provided.]]

Sec. 3. Article 2 (Section 10A-3) of Chapter 10A is added as follows:

Article 2. Early Childhood Coordinating Council.

10A-3. Early Childhood Coordinating Council.

- 116 (a) Definitions. In this Section, the following words have the meanings
- 117 indicated:
- 118 Coordinating Council means the Early Childhood Coordinating
- 119 Council.
- 120 Department means the Department of Health and Human Services.
- 121 Director means the Director of the Department or the Director's
- 122 designee.
- 123 (b) Established. The Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the
- 124 Council, an Early Childhood Coordinating Council.
- 125 (c) Composition and terms of members.
- 126 (1) The Coordinating Council has up to 33 members.
- 127 (2) The Executive must appoint up to 15 public members. The public
- 128 members should include:
- 129 (A) up to 4 representatives of local providers of early
- 130 childhood education and development services;
- 131 (B) one representative of the Montgomery County Council
- 132 Parent Teacher Associations;

- 133 (C) one representative of the Montgomery County
- 134 Commission on Child Care;
- 135 (D) one representative of the Organization of Child Care
- 136 Directors;
- 137 (E) one representative of the Family Child Care Association of
- 138 Montgomery County;
- 139 (F) one representative of the Maryland Association for the
- 140 Education of Young Children;
- 141 (G) one representative of the business community with
- 142 demonstrated leadership in early childhood care and
- 143 education;
- 144 (H) one representative of the local pediatrician community;
- 145 (I) one representative of the local philanthropic community;
- 146 (J) one representative of the local interfaith community; and
- 147 (K) up to 2 parent representatives.
- 148 (3) The Executive must appoint the following to serve as an ex
- 149 officio member:
- 150 (A) the Director of the Department;
- 151 (B) one representative of the Department's Division of Early
- 152 Childhood Services;
- 153 (C) one representative of the Department's Community Health
- 154 Services;
- 155 (D) one representative of the Department's School Health
- 156 Services;
- 157 (E) one representative of the Department's Infants and
- 158 Toddlers Program;

- 159 (F) one representative of the Montgomery County
- 160 Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families;
- 161 (G) one representative of the Montgomery County Child Care
- 162 Resource and Referral Center;
- 163 (H) one representative of the Montgomery County Community
- 164 Action Agency, the administrator of public Head Start
- 165 programs in Montgomery County;
- 166 (I) one representative of Montgomery County Department of
- 167 Public Libraries; and
- 168 (J) one representative of the Montgomery County Council;
- 169 (4) The Executive must invite the following to serve as an ex officio
- 170 member:
- 171 (A) the Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent or
- 172 the Superintendent's designee;
- 173 (B) one representative of the Montgomery County Public
- 174 School's Division of Early Childhood Programs and
- 175 Services;
- 176 (C) one representative of the School's Division of
- 177 Prekindergarten, Special Programs and Related Services;
- 178 (D) one representative of the Office of Child Care Region 5,
- 179 Maryland State Department of Education;
- 180 (E) up to 2 representatives of public institutions of higher
- 181 education in the County;
- 182 (F) one elementary school principal in Montgomery County
- 183 Public Schools; and
- 184 (G) one prekindergarten teacher in Montgomery County Public
- 185 Schools.

186 (5) The term of each member is 4 years. If a member is appointed to
 187 fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves the rest
 188 of the unexpired term.

189 (d) *Voting, officers, chairs, meetings, and compensation.*

190 (1) Each member of the Coordinating Council is a voting member.

191 (2) The Executive must designate the Chair and Vice-Chair.

192 (3) The Coordinating Council meets at the call of the Chair. The
 193 Coordinating Council must meet as often as necessary to perform
 194 its duties, but not less than 9 times each year.

195 (4) A member serves without compensation. However, a member
 196 may request reimbursement for mileage and dependent care costs
 197 at rates established by the County.

198 (e) *Duties. The Coordinating Council must:*

199 (1) conduct a periodic county-wide needs assessment concerning the
 200 quality and availability of early childhood education and
 201 development programs and services for children from birth to
 202 school entry, including an assessment of the availability of child
 203 care, ~~[[pre-kindergarten]]~~ prekindergarten, and other supportive
 204 services for low-income children and their families in the County;

205 (2) identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and
 206 coordination among child development, child care and early
 207 childhood education programs, services, and advocacy groups
 208 including collaboration and coordination among State and local
 209 agencies and organizations responsible for administering or
 210 providing oversight for such efforts;

- 211 (3) develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation
212 of children and their families in existing programs, including
213 outreach to underrepresented and special populations;
- 214 (4) develop recommendations regarding the implementation and use
215 of the State-established unified data collection system for public
216 early childhood education and development programs and
217 services throughout the County;
- 218 (5) develop recommendations regarding professional development,
219 career advancement plans, compensation scales and incentives
220 for early childhood educators in the County; and
- 221 (6) assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and
222 private institutions of higher education toward supporting the
223 development of early childhood educators, including the extent to
224 which such institutions have in place articulation agreements,
225 professional development and career advancement plans, and
226 practice or internships for students to spend time in Early Head
227 Start, Head Start, [[Pre-kindergarten]] prekindergarten, or child
228 care programs;
- 229 (7) recommend uniform regulations for the availability of quality
230 child care in public spaces;
- 231 (8) develop ways to leverage public and private partnerships between
232 private businesses, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the
233 County;
- 234 (9) develop a hub consortium that connects family child care
235 providers to accredited child care centers and schools to provide
236 training, technical assistance, and mentoring to family child care
237 providers; and

238 (10) update and implement an Early Childhood Initiative to integrate
 239 public and private early childhood services, including areas such
 240 as child care, early literacy, early childhood mental health
 241 consultation services, and parent support services.

242 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) Advocacy. The Coordinating Council must not engage in any
 243 legislative advocacy at the State or federal levels unless that activity is
 244 approved by the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

245 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) Staff. The Department of Health and Human Services must provide
 246 appropriate staff to the Coordinating Council.

247 Sec. ~~[[3]]~~ 4. Article VIII of Chapter 27 (Sections 27-62 and 27-62A) is
 248 renumbered and moved to Chapter 10A, and Articles 3 and 4 of Chapter 10A
 249 (Sections 10A-4 and 10A-5) are added as follows:

250 Article VIII. ~~[Commission on Child Care.]~~ Reserved.

251 * * *

252 Article 3. Commission on Child Care.

253 ~~[27-62]~~ ~~[[10A-8]]~~ 10A-4. Commission on child care.

254 * * *

255 Article 4. Child Care Facilities Impact Statements.

256 ~~[27-62A]~~ ~~[[10A-9]]~~ 10A-5. Child Care facilities impact statements.

257 * * *

258 Sec. ~~[[2]]~~ 5. Article ~~[[2]]~~ 5 of Chapter 10A is added and Sections 10A-1,
 259 10A-2, 10A-3, 10A-4, 10A-5, and 10A-6 are renumbered as follows:

260 Article ~~[[2]]~~ 5. Child Day Care Facilities Loan Program.

261 ~~[10A-1]~~ ~~[[10A-2]]~~ 10A-6. Purpose and objectives.

262 * * *

263 ~~[10A-2]~~ ~~[[10A-3]]~~ 10A-7. Eligibility.

264 * * *

265 **[10A-3] ~~[[10A-4]] 10A-8. Uses of funds.~~**

266 * * *

267 **[10A-4] ~~[[10A-5]] 10A-9. Loan amounts and rates.~~**

268 * * *

269 **[10A-5] ~~[[10A-6]] 10A-10. Loan procedures.~~**

270 * * *

271 **[10A-6] ~~[[10A-7]] 10A-11. Revolving loan fund.~~**

272 * * *

273 **Sec. 6. Sections 44-3 and 44-4 are amended and Section 44-4A is added as**
274 **follows:**

275 **44-3. Interagency Coordinating Board.**

276 (a) *Establishment and responsibilities.* ~~[[The]]~~ Except as provided in
277 Section 44-4A, the Interagency Coordinating Board for Community Use
278 of Public Facilities must review and coordinate the activities conducted
279 under this Article. The Board must:

280 * * *

281 **44-4. Director of Community Use of Public Facilities.**

282 ~~[[The]]~~ Except as provided in Section 44-4A, the Director must:

283 * * *

284 **44-4A. Child Care in Public Spaces.**

285 The Child Care and Early Education Officer designated in Section 10A-1
286 must:

287 (a) administer the selection of providers in public space, after consulting
288 with the Montgomery County Board of Education where school
289 facilities are to be used, to the extent authorized by state law; and


290 (b) to the extent not authorized by State law, monitor and support the
291 coordination between the Department of Health and Human Services
292 and the Office of Community Use of Public Facilities to administer the

292 selection of providers in public space, including in Montgomery County
293 Public School facilities [[to the extent authorized by State law]].

294 **Sec. 7. Transition of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council.**

295 The County Executive must stagger the terms of the public members initially
296 appointed to the Early Childhood Coordinating Council under Section 10A-3 as
297 added by Section 3 of this Act so that approximately one-fourth of the terms of the
298 public members expire each year.

299 *Approved:*

300 

George Leventhal, President, County Council

5/7/2015

Date

301 *Approved:*

302 _____
Isiah Leggett, County Executive

Date

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

304 _____
Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council

Date