

HB 2529 -- CHILD CARE

SPONSOR: Kelly (141)

This bill modifies several provisions relating to child care.

BUSINESS DISTRICTS

The bill allows governing bodies, in establishing and maintaining business districts, to lease or contract with child care facilities in addition to current abilities to construct and operate such facilities.

SUCCESS TAX CREDIT

This bill establishes the "Supporting Use of Child Care for Economic Stability and Security Tax Credit".

Beginning January 1, 2025, an eligible taxpayer shall be allowed a nonrefundable tax credit equal to the employment-related expenses for up to two qualifying children, not to exceed:

(1) Expenses of \$1,800 for each child who was under two years of age at any time during the tax year for which the tax credit is being sought; and

(2) Expenses of \$1,200 for each child who was two years of age or older during all of the tax year and under six years of age at any time during the tax year for which the tax credit is being sought.

A tax credit under this proposal shall not be claimed by more than one taxpayer for the same child. This tax credit shall be nontransferable and nonrefundable, and shall not be carried back or forward to any other tax year.

The program sunsets on December 31, 2030.

SMOKING IN CHILD CARE FACILITIES

The bill prohibits smoking or any other use of tobacco or marijuana products in any area of a child care facility that is licensed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. A person in violation of this provision relating to tobacco shall be guilty of an infraction, and a person in violation of this provision relating to marijuana shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

SAFE SLEEP POLICY

This bill adds a new provision providing that, for licensed child care facilities that provide care to children under one year of age, any costs incurred in the completion of required training on safe sleep policies may be paid by the employees or volunteers of the child care facility; the facility itself; a public or private third party; or the State, subject to appropriation.

REGISTRATION FORMS FOR CERTAIN CARE WORKERS

Currently, the Department of Health and Senior Services requires child-care workers, elder-care workers, personal-care workers, and mental health workers to register, as well as complete a criminal background check. The bill adds public or private third parties, as well as the State (subject to appropriation) to the list of eligible entities that may pay the costs of the background check.

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CHILD CARE STAFF MEMBERS

This bill adds public or private third parties, as well as the State (subject to appropriation), to the list of eligible entities that may pay the cost of a criminal background check for a child care staff member prior to his or her employment or presence in a child care facility.

This bill is similar to HB 870 (2023).