

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-5003

AN ACT CONCERNING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND
EDUCATION FUND.

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 9849

File Copy No.: 198

House Calendar No.: 136

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Early Childhood, Off.	GF - Cost	At least 1,145,000	At least 1,145,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	42,024	42,024

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The amendment strikes the language of the underlying bill and the associated fiscal impact.

Section 1 of the amendment results in a cost to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) of at least \$1 million in FY 26 and FY 27 to contract with a consultant to create and implement an electronic early childhood portal.

For context, the portal must be available online and via mobile app and: 1) include information on early care and education program slot

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

availability; 2) allow for providers to upload slot availability and enrollment information; and 3) provide opportunities for families to apply for child-care subsidies, due by July 1, 2028.

Section 2, which does not result in a fiscal impact, requires OEC to implement a Care4Kids prospective payment system by July 1, 2027. OEC is currently working on this project under an approved waiver period through August 2026.

Section 3 makes technical changes to OEC statute that does not result in a fiscal impact.

Section 4, which does not result in a fiscal impact, requires OEC to enter into a data sharing agreement with the Children's Funding Project (CFP) for the purpose of creating an early childhood education fiscal map only if CFP does not charge a fee for its services.

Section 5, which does not result in a fiscal impact, requires OEC, in collaboration with the Insurance Department and Attorney General, to conduct a study and prepare a report on the prevalence, appropriateness and affordability of liability insurance for child care centers and family child care homes, due by July 1, 2026.

Section 6, which does not result in a fiscal impact, requires OEC, in consultation with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, to write and submit a report on background checks for early childhood educators, due by July 1, 2026.

Section 7, which does not result in a fiscal impact, allows OEC to issue large family child care home endorsements to eligible licensees between FY 26 and FY 29, which permits care for up to twelve children under specific conditions regarding staffing, space, and safety compliance, with all endorsements expiring on June 30, 2029.

Section 8 results in a cost to OEC and the State Comptroller – Fringe Benefits of approximately \$145,524 in FY 26 and FY 27 associated with hiring one Primary Prevention Services Coordinator (PPSC) to meet the provisions of the amendment. For reference, the average salary of a

PPSC is approximately \$103,500 with associated fringe benefit costs of \$42,024.

The PPSC will assist OEC with (1) developing and administering a one-year pilot program to disseminate information to expectant mothers receiving prenatal care by December 31, 2026, (2) administering a survey to each parent or guardian that enrolls a child in services as a result of the pilot program by December 31, 2027, and (3) producing a report for the Children's Committee by June 1, 2028.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

Sources: OEC Testimony