

HB 3496 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 2/18, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to develop guidance for local governments related to the siting, incentivizing, and development of child care facilities by December 31, 2026.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

Detailed Summary:

- Directs DLCD to develop guidance for local governments by December 31, 2026, on:
 - Recommendations for implementing current statutes related to siting for child care facilities in specified zones;
 - Recommendations for allowing child care facilities as home occupations under statutes related to home occupations in exclusive farm use and forest zones;
 - Model land use regulations for development of child care facilities;
 - Best practices to streamline the permitting process for child care facilities; and
 - Policies that local governments may adopt to incentivize development of child care facilities.
- Requires DLCD to publish a copy of the guidance on the department's website, and to deliver the guidance and any recommendations for legislation to the Legislative Assembly.
- Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Other introduced legislation related to child care facilities.
- Prevailing wage and affordable housing issues.
- Zoning related to exclusive farm use and forest land.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2023, the Legislative Assembly passed [House Bill 2727](#) which directed the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), in consultation with the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELCD), to convene a work group to examine strategies to expand early learning and care facilities. House Bill 2727 required the work group to review information and research on the impact of zoning regulations, building codes, and permitting practices on expanding early learning and care facilities.

In December 2024, DLCD released a [final report](#) as directed in House Bill 2727. The report included the work group's findings on barriers to developing child care facilities and recommendations to reduce those barriers. One recommendation issued by the work group was the development of a comprehensive guide for local jurisdictions that would include a model zoning code for child care development regulations, best practices to streamline the permitting process for child care facilities, and policies and programs local jurisdictions may implement to incentivize and prioritize the development of child care facilities.