Introduced ______________
Public Hearing ______________
Council Action ______________
Executive Action ______________
Effective Date ______________

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session — Legislative Day No. 11

Bill No. 52 -2026

Introduced by the Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

SHORT TITLE: Credit for Day Care Providers and Additional Childcare Credits

TITLE: AN ACT for the purpose of repealing the current credit for day care provider, family day-care homes and group care centers and replacing the repealed credit with separate credits for certain day care providers and day care credits for large child care centers consistent with State law authority; and generally relating to property tax credits for real property owned by certain day care providers.

Introduced and read first time ________________________, 2026. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on ____________________, 2026.

By order ____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on ____________, 2026 and Passed ___, Passed with amendments _______, Failed _______.

By order ____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this ________day of _____________, 2026 at ___ a.m./p.m.

By order ____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive _____________________________, 2026

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Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

Section 1. Be It Enacted *by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard County Code is amended as follows:*

By repealing:

Title 20. "Taxes, Charges and Fees"

Subtitle 1. "Real Property Tax; Administration, Credits, and Enforcement"

Part II. Statewide Tax Credits.

Section 20.115. "Credit for day care providers; credit for family day care homes or group day care centers."

By enacting:

Title 20. "Taxes, Charges and Fees"

Subtitle 1. "Real Property Tax; Administration, Credits, and Enforcement"

Part II. Statewide Tax Credits.

Section 20.115. "Credit for certain day care providers."

Title 20. "Taxes, Charges and Fees"

Subtitle 1. "Real Property Tax; Administration, Credits, and Enforcement"

Part II. Statewide Tax Credits.

Section 20.115A. "Additional Childcare Credits."

Title 20. Taxes, Charges, and Fees.

Subtitle 1. Real Property Tax; Administration, Credits, and Enforcement.

Part II. Statewide Tax Credits.

SECTION 20.115. CREDIT FOR CERTAIN DAY CARE PROVIDERS.

(A) *DEFINITIONS.* IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:

(1) *CHILD CARE CENTER* SHALL HAVE THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 9.5-401 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

(2) *DAY CARE CENTER FOR ADULTS* SHALL HAVE THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 14-301 OF THE HEALTH-GENERAL ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

(3) *DAY CARE CENTER FOR THE ELDERLY* SHALL HAVE THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 14-201 OF THE HEALTH-GENERAL ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

(4) *FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME* SHALL HAVE THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 9.5-301 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

(5) *LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME* SHALL HAVE THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 9.5-301 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

(B) *AUTHORITY AND ELIGIBILITY.* IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 9-213 OF THE TAX-PROPERTY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, THERE IS A HOWARD COUNTY PROPERTY TAX CREDIT AGAINST THE GENERAL COUNTY TAX ON THAT PORTION OF REAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING ANY IMPROVEMENT, THAT CONTAINS AN AREA SET ASIDE AND DEDICATED EXCLUSIVELY FOR A DAY CARE CENTER THAT IS:

(1) REGISTERED AS A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME OR LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME UNDER TITLE 9.5, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND;

(2) LICENSED AS A CHILD CARE CENTER UNDER TITLE 9.5, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND;

(3) LICENSED AS A DAY CARE CENTER FOR THE ELDERLY UNDER TITLE 14, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE HEALTH-GENERAL ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND; OR

(4) LICENSED AS A DAY CARE CENTER FOR ADULTS UNDER TITLE 14, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE HEALTH-GENERAL ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

(C) *AMOUNT AND LIMITATION ON TAX CREDIT.* THE TAX CREDIT SHALL NOT EXCEED THE LESSER OF:

(1) $5,000 ANNUALLY; OR

(2) THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTY TAX ATTRIBUTABLE TO THAT PORTION OF PROPERTY FOR WHICH THE CREDIT WAS GRANTED.

(D) *ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.* A CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE GRANTED IF THE REAL PROPERTY QUALIFIES FOR A CREDIT UNDER SECTION 20.115A OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(E) *FINANCE TO ADMINISTER.* THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION AND MAY ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.

(F) *APPLICATION AND ANNUAL VERIFICATION.* ON OR BEFORE THE DATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SETS, AN APPLICANT SEEKING A CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

(1) AN APPLICATION IN THE FORM THAT THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRES; AND

(2) DURING EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR, THE VERIFICATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRES TO SHOW THAT THE APPLICANT REMAINS QUALIFIED FOR THE CREDIT, WHICH MAY INCLUDE A CERTIFICATION THAT THE PROPERTY IS LICENSED, REGISTERED OR ACCREDITED BY THE STATE.

(3) FOR A PROPERTY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CREDIT, THE APPLICANT SHALL AGREE IN WRITING THAT THE DAY CARE PROVIDER SHALL ACCEPT CHILDREN AND OR ADULTS REGARDLESS OF RACE, CREED, SEX, SEXUAL PREFERENCE, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR POLITICAL AFFILIATION.

(F) *PUBLICITY.* THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SHALL PUBLICIZE THE CREDIT AUTHORIZED BY THIS SECTION IN A WAY DESIGNED TO INFORM THOSE MOST LIKELY TO BENEFIT FROM THE CREDIT.

SECTION 20.115A. ADDITIONAL DAY CARE CREDITS -CERTAIN LARGE CHILD CARE CENTERS.

(A) *DEFINITIONS.* IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:

(1) *CHILD CARE CENTER* SHALL HAVE THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 9.5-401 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

(2) *FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME* SHALL HAVE THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 9.5-301 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

(3) *LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME* SHALL HAVE THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 9.5-301 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

(B) *AUTHORITY AND ELIGIBILITY*. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF § 9-214 OF THE TAX-PROPERTY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, THERE IS A HOWARD COUNTY PROPERTY TAX CREDIT AGAINST THE GENERAL COUNTY TAX ON THAT PORTION OF THE REAL PROPERTY ON WHICH AN IMPROVEMENT IS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED IF:

(1) THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY A BUSINESS HAVING AT LEAST 25 EMPLOYEES; AND

(2) THE IMPROVEMENT CONTAINS AN AREA SET ASIDE AND DEDICATED EXCLUSIVELY FOR A CHILD CARE CENTER THAT IS:

(I) REGISTERED AS A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME OR LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME UNDER TITLE 9.5, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND; OR

(II) LICENSED AS A CHILD CARE CENTER UNDER TITLE 9.5, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

(C) *LIMITATION ON TAX CREDIT*. THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT SHALL NOT EXCEED THE LESSER OF:

(1) $10,000 ANNUALLY; OR

(2) THE AMOUNT OF COUNTY PROPERTY TAX ATTRIBUTABLE TO THAT PORTION OF PROPERTY ON WHICH THE CREDIT WAS GRANTED.

(D) *ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS*. A CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE GRANTED IF THE REAL PROPERTY QUALIFIES FOR A CREDIT UNDER SECTION 20.115 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(E) *FINANCE TO ADMINISTER*. THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION AND MAY ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.

(F) *APPLICATION AND ANNUAL VERIFICATION*. ON OR BEFORE THE DATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SETS, AN APPLICANT SEEKING A CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

(1) AN APPLICATION IN THE FORM THAT THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRES; AND

(2) DURING EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR, THE VERIFICATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRES TO SHOW THAT THE APPLICANT REMAINS QUALIFIED FOR THE CREDIT WHICH MAY INCLUDE A CERTIFICATION THAT THE PROPERTY IS LICENSED, REGISTERED OR ACCREDITED BY THE STATE.

(3) FOR A PROPERTY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CREDIT, THE APPLICANT SHALL AGREE IN WRITING THAT THE DAY CARE PROVIDER SHALL ACCEPT CHILDREN REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, CREED, SEX, SEXUAL PREFERENCE, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR POLITICAL AFFILIATION.

(G) *PUBLICITY*. THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SHALL PUBLICIZE THE CREDIT AUTHORIZED BY THIS SECTION IN A WAY DESIGNED TO INFORM THOSE MOST LIKELY TO BENEFIT FROM THE CREDIT.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted *by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that this Act shall apply beginning with the tax year that begins July 1, 2027.*

Section 3. And Be It Further Enacted *by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.*