

Early Care and Education Bills to Watch

BILL OR RESOLUTION	SPONSOR(S)	PURPOSE/SUMMARY	STATUS	FISCAL NOTE
HS1-HB 204	Romer, Poore, Lockman	Creates a dedicated team within the state's child care licensing office to handle complaints about licensed child care providers.	House Appropriations 1/15/26	\$206K FY27
HS1 FOR HB 274	Ross Levin, Lockman	Increases Delaware's child and dependent care tax credit from 50% to 100% of the federal credit for all eligible taxpayers, applicable to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.	House Appropriations 3/19/26	\$6.3M FY28
HS2 for HB 284	Yearick, Berry, Hocker	Doubles the child and dependent care tax credit for residents earning under \$60,000 and makes it refundable; credit is unchanged for those earning \$60,000 or more.	House Revenue & Finance 4/30/26	\$2.7M FY27
HB 259 W/ HA 1	Williams, Pinkney	Requires lead screening for children ages 12 months and older before enrollment or continued attendance in child care facilities and schools.	Senate Ready List 5/5/26	Not Required
SS 1 FOR SB 278	Paradee, Harris	Requires DHSS Purchase of Care (POC) program to authorize summer child care providers starting January 1 so families can enroll kids in camps before they fill. Also requires copayments be based on full/half day of care and household size/income; codifies eligibility for children in DSCYF custody.	Senate Finance 5/18/26	\$756K FY27
HCR 122	Moore, Brown	Establishes the Early Childhood Education Solutions Task Force to study and make findings and recommendations regarding a model of mixed-delivery, non-compulsory public pre-K that covers all 3- and 4-year-olds in this State by 2035.	House Education, 5/5/26	Not Required

<u>HJR 10</u>	Ross Levin, Cruce	Indicates that POC reimbursement rates for providers serving children ages 0–5 should be increased by 10% for FY2027 across all settings. Aims to promote fair compensation for providers serving subsidized families.	House Appropriations 4/23/26	\$9M FY27
<u>HB 312</u>	K. Williams, Pinkney	Amends the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act to update the definition of confirmatory blood lead testing.	Senate Ready List 5/13/26	Not Required
<u>HB 387</u>	Hilovsky, Ross Levin, Buckson	Gradually raises the income eligibility threshold for Delaware's Purchase of Care (POC) childcare subsidy program from 200% to 275% of the Federal Poverty Level over five years, with a sunset clause expiring June 30, 2032.	House Ready Lists 5/14/26	\$10.8M FY27
<u>SB 293</u>	Paradee, Harris	Deems ACA-accredited youth camps as meeting equivalent OCCL health and safety requirements, enabling them to qualify as Purchase of Care providers and expanding subsidized summer care options.	Senate Ready List 5/12/26	Not required
<u>SB 294</u>	Cruce, K. Johnson	Makes full-time students pursuing associate or bachelor's degrees eligible for Purchase of Care child care assistance, and excludes student financial aid from income calculations for eligibility purposes.	Senate Finance 5/13/26	\$1.47M FY27
<u>HS 1 for HB 47 w/ HA 1</u>	K. Williams, Poore	Removes the option for private schools and youth camps to use name-based background checks or opt out of background checks entirely.	Signed 9/2/25	Indeterminable
<u>HB 419</u>	Griffith, Heffernan, K. Williams, Lockman	Provides that a child is automatically eligible for Purchase of Care upon placement in foster care.	House Health & Human Development 5/13/26	Not Required