152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**SENATE BILL NO. 305**
AS AMENDED BY:	**SA 1**
SPONSOR:	**Senator Sturgeon**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.

2. This Act codifies State-funded early care and education and, subject to the availability of appropriations, requires the Department of Education to provide free early childhood educational services for preschool-age children who satisfy the eligibility requirements developed by the Department. The Department of Education shall identify priorities for which programs to provide.

3. This Act also modifies the contract length for public and private early childhood education providers from a maximum of 3 years to a maximum of 5 years and requires these contracts to comply with State procurement requirements under Chapter 69 of Title 29. Additionally, this Act requires that all early childhood educational services under this section comply with quality standards.

4. For Fiscal Year 2025, it is projected that there will be 1,698 childcare seats available through Redding Consortium and Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP) funds.

5. The average cost to provide early childhood educational services are outlined as follows:
    a. $25,008 for full-day services for an infant;
    b. $18,300 for full-day services for a toddler;
    c. $14,508 for full-day services for a preschooler; and
    d. $7,254 for half-day services for a preschooler.

6. According to the 2023 Delaware KIDS Count data reported, there are 20,348 3-year-olds and 21,084 4-year-olds in Delaware. Because the eligibility requirements for providing educational services to preschool-age children have not yet been developed by the Department of Education, future year fiscal impacts are indeterminable.

Cost:
Fiscal Year 2025: Indeterminable
Fiscal Year 2026: Indeterminable
Fiscal Year 2027: Indeterminable

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