

HOUSE BILL 1284

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F5

2000 Regular Session
(01r2860)

ENROLLED BILL
-- Ways and Means/Budget and Taxation --

Introduced by ~~Delegate Shriver~~ **Delegates Shriver, Conroy, Rosso, and
Carlson**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Judith P. Hoyer Blue Ribbon Commission on the Financing of Early Child**
3 **Care and Education**

4 FOR the purpose of creating the Judith P. Hoyer Blue Ribbon Commission on the
5 Financing of Early Child Care and Education; providing for the purpose, duties,
6 and membership of the Commission; providing for the terms and compensation
7 of its members; providing for the appointment of its members; requiring the
8 Commission to meet at certain times and issue reports on or before certain
9 dates; providing for the termination of the Commission and the termination of
10 this Act; and generally relating to the creation of a Commission charged with
11 studying the financing of early child care and education in the State.

12 Preamble

13 WHEREAS, Maryland's greatest resource is its children; and

1 WHEREAS, Maryland's youngest children must receive an early child care
2 and education that provide a safe, nurturing, educational, and culturally affirming
3 environment, in order to ensure that they enter the school system prepared to
4 succeed; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1999, the State annual average cost for full-time child care for
6 a child 5 years or younger was \$6,112; and

7 WHEREAS, Nationally, approximately 60% of the \$40 billion spent annually
8 on early child care and education is paid by the families of those children; and

9 WHEREAS, The vast majority of the money spent goes to pay for direct
10 services to children, with only a small percentage supporting infrastructure, such as
11 quality assurance and capital costs for facilities; and

12 WHEREAS, A growing body of research has revealed the critical importance of
13 early child care and education to later achievement and learning; and

14 WHEREAS, While the State and federal governments support public
15 education and provide substantial support to public colleges, and State and federal
16 governments make substantial contributions targeted to early child care and
17 education for low-income families, public funding of early child care and education for
18 middle-income families is minimal; and

19 WHEREAS, Nationally, experts in financing are reviewing new approaches to
20 funding early child care and education services, including approaches modeled after
21 the funding mechanisms used for higher education; and

22 WHEREAS, A blue ribbon commission created by the State would make
23 possible an intensive review of innovative approaches to funding early child care and
24 education, including approaches modeled after methods used in financing higher
25 education, transportation, and housing; now, therefore,

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 MARYLAND, That ~~the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

28 (a) There is a Judith P. Hoyer Blue Ribbon Commission on the Financing of
29 Early Child Care and Education.

30 (b) The purpose of the Commission is to examine the costs and availability of
31 funding for early child care and education.

32 (c) The Commission shall:

33 (1) determine the total costs of early child care and education;

34 (2) develop a coherent funding structure for early child care and
35 education in Maryland, which may include:

1 (i) a tiered reimbursement system for the purchase of early child
2 care and education, under which providers would be reimbursed at scheduled
3 percentages of and above market rates;

4 (ii) incentives for providers and programs, including wage
5 supplements and retention grants, that are linked to the educational attainments of
6 children receiving early child care and education; or

7 (iii) the inclusion of early child care and education, or at least
8 prekindergarten programs, in the State education funding formula;

9 (3) review and identify the sources for any available and potentially
10 available funding from the federal government for early child care and education;

11 (4) review and identify potentially available public and private funding
12 sources, other than the federal government, for early child care and education;

13 (5) identify methods for reducing the costs to middle-income parents of
14 early child care and education; and

15 (6) develop a specific plan and time line for implementation of programs
16 developed.

17 (d) The Commission consists of 25 members.

18 (e) The members of the Commission are:

19 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
20 as follows:

21 (i) one member of the Budget and Taxation Committee; and

22 (ii) one member of the Economic and Environmental Affairs
23 Committee;

24 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker as
25 follows:

26 (i) one member of the Appropriations Committee; and

27 (ii) one member of the Ways and Means Committee;

28 (3) the House and Senate Chairmen of the Joint Committee on Children,
29 Youth, and Families of the General Assembly;

30 (4) the State Superintendent of Schools or the State Superintendent's
31 designee;

32 (5) the Secretary of Budget and Management or the Secretary's designee;

33 (6) the Secretary of Human Resources or the Secretary's designee;

- 1 (7) the Secretary of Higher Education or the Secretary's designee;
- 2 (8) the Special Secretary for the Office of Children, Youth, and Families
3 in the Governor's Office or the Special Secretary's designee;
- 4 (9) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development or the
5 Secretary's designee;
- 6 (10) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development or the
7 Secretary's designee; and
- 8 (11) the following members appointed by the Governor:
- 9 (i) one representative of the Maryland Child Care Resource
10 Network;
- 11 (ii) one representative of the University System of Maryland;
- 12 (iii) one representative of community colleges in the State;
- 13 (iv) two representatives of the Maryland business community;
- 14 (v) one representative of the banking industry in the State;
- 15 (vi) one representative of family child care providers in the State;
- 16 (vii) one representative of child care centers in the State;
- 17 ~~(viii) two parents of children in child care programs in the State;~~
- 18 ~~(viii) one parent of a child in a child care program in the State~~ *two*
19 *parents of children in child care programs in the State;*
- 20 (ix) one representative of a child advocacy group; ~~and~~ *and*
- 21 (x) one economist who is familiar with innovative funding
22 strategies; ~~and~~
- 23 ~~(xi) one representative of the United Way.~~
- 24 (f) (1) A member appointed by the Governor shall be appointed on or before
25 July 1, 2000.
- 26 (2) A member shall serve until the end of December 31, 2001.
- 27 (g) The chairman of the Commission shall be appointed jointly by the
28 Governor, the President, and the Speaker on or before July 1, 2000.
- 29 (h) (1) The first meeting of the Commission shall be held on or before
30 September 1, 2000.

1 (2) The Commission shall hold subsequent meetings at times and
2 locations determined by the Commission.

3 (i) A member of the Commission:

4 (1) may not receive compensation; but

5 (2) shall receive compensation for expenses under the Standard State
6 Travel Regulations as provided in the State budget.

7 (j) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide the staff for the
8 Commission ~~from among its fiscal analysts~~.

9 (k) The Commission shall issue to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the
10 State Government Article, to the General Assembly:

11 (1) on or before December 31, 2000, an interim report on its findings; and

12 (2) on or before December 31, 2001, a final report on its findings.

13 (l) The Commission shall terminate at the end of December 31, 2001.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 July 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the
16 end of December 31, 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
17 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.