

CHAPTER 526

(Senate Bill 234)

AN ACT concerning

Education – Maryland’s Preschool for All Business Plan – Final Report Requirements

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to consult with and accept comments from certain county superintendents and certain local governing bodies regarding the Maryland’s Preschool for All Business Plan before preparing and publishing a certain version of a certain Business Plan; requiring the Department to submit to the Governor and General Assembly a copy of a certain report that includes certain information on or before a certain date; prohibiting the Department from implementing the finalized Business Plan unless the Department identifies a certain funding source; defining certain terms; and generally relating to final report requirements for the Maryland’s Preschool for All Business Plan.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Business Plan” means the Maryland’s Preschool for All Business Plan: A Draft Proposal published by the State Department of Education in September 2008.

(3) “County superintendents” includes the Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

(4) “Department” means the State Department of Education.

(b) The Department shall consult with and accept comments from county superintendents and local governing bodies regarding the contents, costs, and staged implementation of the draft Business Plan before preparing and publishing a final version of the Business Plan.

(c) On or before December 1, 2009, the Department shall submit to the Governor, and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, a copy of the finalized Business Plan that includes:

(1) any feedback and comments from county superintendents and local governing bodies under subsection (b) of this section;

(2) a cost projection for the staged implementation of the finalized Business Plan;

(3) an evaluation of the State's mandated pre-Kindergarten income eligibility level;

(4) a comparison of income eligibility levels for preschool services in Maryland and other states;

(5) the feasibility of expanding the State's mandated income eligibility levels for preschool services, utilizing all available funding sources;

(6) the feasibility of and a cost projection for identifying pre-Kindergarten students attending public schools as enrolled students under § 5-202(a)(6) of the Education Article;

~~(6)~~ (7) the level of participation in preschool services by the eligible population in the State; and

~~(7)~~ (8) the level of demand for access to preschool services by the noneligible population in the State.

(d) The Department may not implement the finalized Business Plan until the Department has identified an on-going funding source.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2009.