

HOUSE BILL 350

F5, F1

0lr1472
CF 0lr1511

By: **Delegates Hucker, Bartlett, Doory, Frick, Gutierrez, Hixson, Ivey, Kaiser, Montgomery, Murphy, Myers, Olszewski, Rice, Ross, Stukes, and V. Turner**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2010

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Early Learning Challenge Fund – Application for Grants**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to apply for grants
4 from the Early Learning Challenge Fund; requiring the Department to take
5 certain actions before submitting an application; requiring the application to
6 contain certain information; making this Act subject to a certain contingency;
7 and generally relating to the application for grants from the Early Learning
8 Challenge Fund.

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

11 (a) The State Department of Education shall seek federal funds for early
12 learning initiatives by submitting an application for grants from the Early Learning
13 Challenge Fund.

14 (b) Before submitting an application for grants from the Early Learning
15 Challenge Fund, the Department shall identify the conditions necessary for a
16 competitive application and shall identify actions necessary to remove impediments to
17 being competitive.

18 (c) (1) In the application for grants from the Early Learning Challenge
19 Fund, the Department shall describe the ways it seeks to build a comprehensive,
20 high-quality, early learning system for children birth to age five.

21 (2) The application shall include all of the information required for the
22 Early Learning Challenge Fund, which may include information on the following:

23 (i) early learning standards reform;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (ii) evidence-based program quality standards;
- 2 (iii) enhanced program review and monitoring of program
3 quality;
- 4 (iv) comprehensive professional development;
- 5 (v) a coordinated system for facilitating screenings for
6 disability, health, and mental health needs;
- 7 (vi) improved support to parents;
- 8 (vii) a process for assessing children's school readiness; and
- 9 (viii) using data to improve child learning outcomes.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 July 1, 2010, contingent on the taking effect of federal legislation enacting the Early
12 Learning Challenge Fund, and if federal legislation enacting the Early Learning
13 Challenge Fund does not become effective before October 1, 2010, this Act shall be null
14 and void without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly.