

HOUSE BILL 461

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By: **Chair, Ways and Means Committee (By Request – Departmental – Education)**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2014

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Early Childhood Advisory Council**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the State Early Childhood Advisory Council;
4 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Council; prohibiting a
5 member of the Council from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the
6 reimbursement of certain expenses; providing for the purposes of the Council;
7 requiring the Council to hold certain meetings at least a certain number of
8 times per year and to maintain minutes of meetings; authorizing the Council to
9 adopt certain procedures and bylaws; providing for the automatic resignation of
10 a Council member, subject to a certain waiver, under certain circumstances;
11 requiring the Council to take certain actions, including developing a strategic
12 plan to improve the school readiness skills of young children and generally
13 providing an infrastructure of continuous program improvement for the State's
14 early learning and development programs; requiring the Council to provide a
15 certain statewide strategic report to the Governor and the General Assembly on
16 or before a certain date; requiring the Council to meet periodically after a
17 certain report is submitted to review implementation of the report's
18 recommendations and any changes in State and local need; defining a certain
19 term; and generally relating to the State Early Childhood Advisory Council.

20 BY adding to

21 Article – Education

22 Section 7–1601 through 7–1608 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 16. State
23 Early Childhood Advisory Council”

24 Annotated Code of Maryland

25 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1

Article – Education

2

SUBTITLE 16. STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL.

3

7-1601.

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IN THIS SUBTITLE, “COUNCIL” MEANS THE STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD
ADVISORY COUNCIL.

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6

7-1602.

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(A) THERE IS A STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL IN THE
DEPARTMENT.

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(B) THE PURPOSES OF THE COUNCIL ARE TO:

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(1) COORDINATE EFFORTS AMONG EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND
EDUCATION PROGRAMS;

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(2) CONDUCT NEEDS ASSESSMENTS CONCERNING EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS; AND

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(3) DEVELOP A STATEWIDE STRATEGIC REPORT REGARDING
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE.

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16

7-1603.

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(A) THE COUNCIL CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

18

(1) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

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(2) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY
THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

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(3) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE
SUPERINTENDENT’S DESIGNEE;

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(4) THE DIRECTOR OF THE HEAD START STATE
COLLABORATION;

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(5) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE
FOR CHILDREN, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE;

27

1 **(6) THE ASSISTANT STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DIVISION**
2 **OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT;**

3 **(7) THE STATE CHILD CARE ADMINISTRATOR;**

4 **(8) THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DIVISION OF**
5 **SPECIAL EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES;**

6 **(9) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:**

7 **(I) UP TO TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL EDUCATION**
8 **AGENCIES;**

9 **(II) UP TO TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF INSTITUTIONS OF**
10 **HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE;**

11 **(III) UP TO FOUR REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL PROVIDERS**
12 **OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES;**

13 **(IV) UP TO TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF HEAD START**
14 **AGENCIES LOCATED IN THE STATE;**

15 **(V) UP TO TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT**
16 **OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM SPECIALIZES IN**
17 **MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH;**

18 **(VI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL MANAGEMENT**
19 **BOARD;**

20 **(VII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE INTERAGENCY**
21 **COORDINATING COUNCIL;**

22 **(VIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE READY AT FIVE**
23 **PARTNERSHIP;**

24 **(IX) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND PARENT**
25 **TEACHER ASSOCIATION;**

26 **(X) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF MARYLAND PUBLIC**
27 **LIBRARIES;**

1 **(XI) UP TO TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUSINESS**
2 **COMMUNITY WITH DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP IN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE**
3 **AND EDUCATION;**

4 **(XII) UP TO TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARYLAND**
5 **FAMILY NETWORK;**

6 **(XIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICE OF CHILD CARE**
7 **ADVISORY COUNCIL;**

8 **(XIV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND STATE**
9 **EDUCATION ASSOCIATION;**

10 **(XV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES**
11 **INTERNATIONAL UNION;**

12 **(XVI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
13 **DISABILITIES;**

14 **(XVII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES**
15 **ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES;**

16 **(XVIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A PHILANTHROPIC**
17 **INSTITUTION;**

18 **(XIX) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND**
19 **ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS;**

20 **(XX) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
21 **AGENCY THAT PROVIDES SERVICES TO CHILDREN;**

22 **(XXI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL COMMUNITY**
23 **ACTION AGENCY;**

24 **(XXII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND CHAPTER**
25 **OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS; AND**

26 **(XXIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF SCHOOL HEALTH**
27 **SERVICES; AND**

28 **(10) UP TO FIVE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE**
29 **COUNCIL.**

1 **(B) (1) THE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR SHALL SERVE**
2 **AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR FOR STAGGERED 4-YEAR TERMS, AS**
3 **DETERMINED BY THE GOVERNOR.**

4 **(2) MEMBERS MAY SERVE UP TO TWO CONSECUTIVE 4-YEAR**
5 **TERMS.**

6 **(3) A MEMBER SELECTED TO FILL A VACANCY SERVES ONLY FOR**
7 **THE BALANCE OF THE TERM REMAINING AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT.**

8 **7-1604.**

9 **(A) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL,**
10 **AND THE CHAIR SHALL SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR.**

11 **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COUNCIL.**

12 **(C) A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL:**

13 **(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE**
14 **COUNCIL; BUT**

15 **(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE**
16 **STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE**
17 **BUDGET.**

18 **7-1605.**

19 **(A) THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST THREE TIMES PER CALENDAR**
20 **YEAR.**

21 **(B) MEETINGS SHALL BE:**

22 **(1) OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC;**

23 **(2) HELD IN A PLACE ACCESSIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC; AND**

24 **(3) ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE.**

25 **(C) MINUTES SHALL BE KEPT OF ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS.**

26 **7-1606.**

1 **THE COUNCIL MAY ADOPT PROCEDURES AND BYLAWS AS NECESSARY TO**
2 **ENSURE THE ORDERLY TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS.**

3 **7-1607.**

4 **(A) A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WHO**
5 **FAILS TO ATTEND AT LEAST 50% OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF**
6 **THE COUNCIL DURING ANY CONSECUTIVE 12-MONTH PERIOD SHALL BE**
7 **CONSIDERED TO HAVE RESIGNED.**

8 **(B) (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15 OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR, THE**
9 **CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL SHALL FORWARD TO THE GOVERNOR:**

10 **(I) THE NAME OF ANY MEMBER CONSIDERED TO HAVE**
11 **RESIGNED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

12 **(II) A STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE MEMBER'S HISTORY OF**
13 **ATTENDANCE DURING THE PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD.**

14 **(2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS**
15 **SUBSECTION, AFTER RECEIVING THE CHAIR'S NOTICE, THE GOVERNOR SHALL**
16 **APPOINT A SUCCESSOR FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM OF THE RESIGNING**
17 **MEMBER.**

18 **(3) IF A MEMBER HAS BEEN UNABLE TO ATTEND MEETINGS FOR**
19 **REASONS SATISFACTORY TO THE GOVERNOR, THE GOVERNOR MAY WAIVE THE**
20 **RESIGNATION.**

21 **7-1608.**

22 **(A) THE COUNCIL SHALL:**

23 **(1) CONDUCT A PERIODIC STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT**
24 **CONCERNING THE QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD**
25 **EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN**
26 **FROM BIRTH TO SCHOOL ENTRY, INCLUDING:**

27 **(I) AN ASSESSMENT OF THE AVAILABILITY OF HIGH**
28 **QUALITY PREKINDERGARTEN SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME CHILDREN IN THE**
29 **STATE; AND**

30 **(II) HEALTH-RELATED BARRIERS TO SCHOOL READINESS**
31 **AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS;**

1 **(2) IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR, AND BARRIERS TO,**
2 **COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION AMONG FEDERALLY FUNDED AND**
3 **STATE-FUNDED CHILD DEVELOPMENT, CHILD CARE, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD**
4 **EDUCATION PROGRAMS;**

5 **(3) DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING THE**
6 **OVERALL PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN IN EXISTING FEDERAL, STATE, AND**
7 **LOCAL CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS,**
8 **INCLUDING OUTREACH TO UNDERREPRESENTED AND SPECIAL POPULATIONS;**

9 **(4) DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE**
10 **ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC EARLY**
11 **CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**
12 **THROUGHOUT THE STATE;**

13 **(5) DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING STATEWIDE**
14 **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT PLANS FOR EARLY**
15 **CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN THE STATE;**

16 **(6) ASSESS THE CAPACITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF 2-YEAR AND**
17 **4-YEAR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE**
18 **STATE TOWARD SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD**
19 **EDUCATORS, INCLUDING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE INSTITUTIONS HAVE**
20 **ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER**
21 **ADVANCEMENT PLANS, AND PRACTICE OR INTERNSHIPS FOR STUDENTS TO**
22 **SPEND TIME IN A HEAD START OR PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM;**

23 **(7) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO STATE**
24 **EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS AND UNDERTAKE EFFORTS TO DEVELOP**
25 **HIGH-QUALITY COMPREHENSIVE EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS, AS**
26 **APPROPRIATE;**

27 **(8) HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR**
28 **PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED IN ITEMS (1) THROUGH (7)**
29 **OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND**

30 **(9) PERFORM ANY OTHER DUTIES THAT MAY BE REQUESTED BY**
31 **THE GOVERNOR.**

32 **(B) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2015, THE COUNCIL SHALL**
33 **SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, AND,**
34 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE**

1 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, A STATEWIDE STRATEGIC REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES
2 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A)(1) THROUGH (7) OF THIS SECTION.

3 (2) AFTER SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER
4 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COUNCIL SHALL CONTINUE TO MEET
5 PERIODICALLY TO REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPORT'S
6 RECOMMENDATIONS AND ANY CHANGES IN STATE AND LOCAL NEEDS AFTER
7 SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2014.