

SENATE BILL 637

O4, F5

0lr3028

By: **Senator King**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Children – Therapeutic Nursery Program – Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Therapeutic Nursery Program; providing for the
4 purpose of the Program; requiring, in a certain fiscal year, the Governor to include
5 in the annual budget bill a certain appropriation to the Program; requiring,
6 beginning in a certain fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor to
7 increase a certain appropriation by a certain amount; authorizing the Program to be
8 funded from certain funding sources; defining certain terms; and generally relating
9 to the Therapeutic Nursery Program.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Education

12 Section 8–420

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 **8–420.**

19 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
20 INDICATED.

21 (2) “DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS, PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, OR DELAYS
22 IN SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, OR BEHAVIORAL FUNCTIONING” MEANS:

23 (I) A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY OR ATYPICAL

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 DEVELOPMENT, AS IDENTIFIED BY A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, IN:

2 1. COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT;

3 2. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT;

4 3. LANGUAGE AND SPEECH DEVELOPMENT;

5 4. PSYCHOSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT; OR

6 5. SELF-HELP SKILLS;

7 (II) PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA, AS IDENTIFIED THROUGH AN
8 EVALUATION BY A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL; OR

9 (III) A DIAGNOSED PHYSICAL, DEVELOPMENTAL, OR MENTAL
10 HEALTH CONDITION THAT IMPACTS DAILY LIVING AND LIMITS PARTICIPATION IN
11 TYPICAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OR CHILD CARE SETTINGS.

12 (3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE THERAPEUTIC NURSERY PROGRAM.

13 (B) THERE IS A THERAPEUTIC NURSERY PROGRAM IN THE STATE.

14 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE SPECIALIZED CHILD
15 CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION BY EDUCATORS, EARLY INTERVENTION
16 PROVIDERS, MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS, AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO
17 CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6 YEARS WHO HAVE:

18 (1) DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS;

19 (2) PHYSICAL DISABILITIES; OR

20 (3) DELAYS IN SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, OR BEHAVIORAL FUNCTIONING.

21 (D) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE
22 ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION TO THE PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT NOT
23 LESS THAN THE PER PUPIL FUNDING AMOUNT OF:

24 (I) \$10,000 FOR EACH TYPICALLY DEVELOPING CHILD SERVED;
25 AND

26 (II) \$45,000 FOR EACH CHILD SERVED WHO HAS
27 DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS, PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, OR DELAYS IN SOCIAL,

1 EMOTIONAL, OR BEHAVIORAL FUNCTIONING.

2 (2) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR
3 THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCREASE THE PER PUPIL FUNDING AMOUNT
4 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION BY THE LESSER OF:

5 (I) THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN
6 CONSUMERS FOR THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
7 INDEX; OR

8 (II) 1.5%.

9 (3) THE PROGRAM MAY BE FUNDED FROM:

10 (I) THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE; AND

11 (II) ANY OTHER SOURCES.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
13 1, 2020.