

# HOUSE BILL 1139

O4, F1, D5

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CF SB 882

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By: **Delegate Solomon**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program – Permanent**  
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot  
5 Program as a permanent program; and generally relating to the Growing Family  
6 Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Education  
9 Section 9.5–114  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Chapter 437 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2021  
14 Section 2

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Chapter 438 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2021  
17 Section 2

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 9.5–114.

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (2)    “Child care licensing region” means any one of 13 regions designated by  
2 the Department to provide licensing and oversight for family child care programs.

3           (3)    “Family child care” means the care given to a child under the age of 13  
4 years or to a developmentally disabled person under the age of 21 years that is in place of  
5 parental care for less than 24 hours a day, in a residence other than the child’s residence,  
6 for which the family child care provider is paid.

7           (4)    “Family child care provider” means an individual who cares for children  
8 in a registered family child care home or a registered large family child care home.

9           (5)    “Local [pilot] program” means a local jurisdiction or child care licensing  
10 region that participates in the Program.

11           (6)    “Program” means the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities [Pilot]  
12 Program.

13           (7)    “Start–up assistance” means the funding for starting a family child care  
14 program including the cost of materials, curriculum, and renovations.

15           (b)    (1)    There is a Growing Family Child Care Opportunities [Pilot] Program  
16 in the Department.

17                   (2)    The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to establish and  
18 support local [pilot] programs in the State.

19                   (3)    The Department shall partner with the Maryland Child Care Resource  
20 Network to administer the Program.

21           (c)    (1)    Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, on or before  
22 September 1, 2022, the Department shall award at least three grants, each of which does  
23 not exceed \$150,000, in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection to establish and  
24 support family child care providers in the State.

25                   (2)    (i)    To be eligible for a grant under this section, a county governing  
26 body or multiple county governing bodies shall sign a memorandum of understanding with  
27 a child care resource center that serves the child care licensing region that contains one of  
28 the counties.

29                           (ii)   The county or counties and the child care resource center jointly  
30 shall apply for the grant and administer the local [pilot] program.

31           (d)    Grant recipients shall:

32                   (1)    Use the grants to:

1 (i) Establish and support a local [pilot] program; and

2 (ii) Target the use of the grant to increase the supply and ensure the  
3 sustainability of family child care providers in areas with above average rates of poverty  
4 and unemployment or areas with a lack of available child care providers;

5 (2) Raise local matching funds, including in-kind matching resources at a  
6 1:1 match;

7 (3) Collaborate with existing family child care providers during the  
8 implementation of the Program;

9 (4) Provide multilingual outreach to recruit individuals to become  
10 registered family child care providers with the Department;

11 (5) Provide technical assistance, financial incentives, and start-up  
12 assistance for recruited individuals as they navigate the Department's process to become a  
13 registered family child care provider;

14 (6) Assist newly registered and established family child care providers  
15 through technical assistance to achieve quality benchmarks, peer-to-peer mentoring, and  
16 financial incentives; and

17 (7) Establish partnerships with local chambers of commerce, or other local  
18 or state organizations for family child care providers that support small businesses and  
19 women and minority-owned businesses to provide:

20 (i) Assistance to recruited individuals or registered family child care  
21 providers in implementing best business practices; and

22 (ii) Assistance in achieving financial sustainability.

23 (e) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, for [each of] fiscal years  
24 2023 [and], 2024, **2026, AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER**, the Governor shall  
25 include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$450,000 to the Program.

26 (2) To the extent authorized under federal law, the Governor shall use  
27 federal funds to satisfy the requirement of paragraph (1) of this subsection.

28 (f) The Department shall develop guidelines, in consultation with the Maryland  
29 Child Care Resource Center, for the grant application process and grant recipients.

30 (g) (1) The Department may seek funding to start the Program.

31 (2) If the Department receives funding before July 1, 2022, the Department  
32 shall begin awarding grants as soon as possible under the Program.

1 (h) Each year, the Department shall develop and publish goals for the Program.

2 (i) On or before December 1, 2021, and each December 1 thereafter, the  
3 Department shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
4 Government Article, on the status of the Program and an evaluation of local [pilot]  
5 programs in meeting the Program goals.

6 **Chapter 437 of the Acts of 2021**

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
8 1, 2021. [It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June 30, 2025,  
9 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
10 of no further force and effect.]

11 **Chapter 438 of the Acts of 2021**

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