



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 513

DATE: March 23, 2022

SPONSOR: Delegate Ebersole

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Health & Environmental Affairs and Budget & Taxation

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey (leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS (Department of Health and Human Services)

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Support Services Program – Established

House Bill 513 codifies the existing Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Support Services Program within the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and requires the Governor to include in the annual budget bill in fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter an appropriation of \$3,000,000 for the operation of the Program. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) has been a grantee under the Program for several years and we respectfully request House Bill 513 be amended to reflect how the Program currently operates and ensure that the service delivery functions of the Program are not inadvertently placed within MSDE by the bill language.

Please see the suggested amendments following this page that MCDHHS believes are necessary in order for House Bill 513 to reflect how the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Support Services Program currently functions, as is the intent of the bill.

Presently, MSDE makes grants to entities to carry out the functions described in the bill as “the Program”. By substituting “codifying” for “establishing” on page 1, this amendment clarifies that the Program is already in existence, and furthers the intent of the bill to codify the Program without changes to how the Program is currently carried out. By substituting “administered by” for “in” on page 2, this amendment clarifies that MSDE is not the entity to carry out the on-the-ground functions of the Program, but instead is responsible for the administrative functions such as distributing funding and building partnerships with community resources, etc. The substitution of “the Program” for “the Division” on page 3 makes it clear that MSDE is not the entity to identify Program participants but leaves that function to the grantees, child care providers and interested families, as is the current practice. The final amendment to page 3 reflects this as well.

MCDHHS values the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Support Services Program and respectfully urges the Committee to adopt the requested amendments to House Bill 513 so that the Program and MCDHHS can continue to serve families who need these important services.

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 513 Proposed by Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1 in line 4 strike “ESTABLISHING” and insert “CODIFYING”.

On page 2 in line 27 strike “IN” and substitute “ADMINISTERED BY”.

On page 3 in line 1 strike “THE DIVISION” and substitute “THE PROGRAM”; in line 3 after “.” insert “THE PROGRAM MAY ACCEPT REFERRALS FROM CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND SELF-REFERRALS FROM FAMILIES OF INITIALLY ELIGIBLE CHILDREN FOR ENROLLMENT IN THE PROGRAM.”; in line 24, strike “DIVISION” and substitute “PROGRAM”; in line 27 after “.” insert “THE PROGRAM MAY ACCEPT REFERRALS FROM CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND SELF-REFERRALS FROM FAMILIES OF POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE CHILDREN FOR ENROLLMENT IN THE PROGRAM.”