

# HOUSE BILL 1455

F1, O4

4lr2559

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By: **Delegate Solomon**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Prekindergarten and Child Care Providers – Waiver Action Plan and**  
3 **Assistance Hubs**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a county board of education that requests a certain waiver  
5 for publicly funded full-day prekindergarten to develop and submit a certain action  
6 plan to certain government entities; requiring the State Department of Education,  
7 in collaboration with the Accountability and Implementation Board, to establish  
8 certain assistance hubs throughout the State to provide certain assistance to certain  
9 child care providers; establishing the Child Care Provider Hub Advisory Committee  
10 to advise the Department and other relevant parties on establishing and fulfilling  
11 the purposes of the assistance hubs; and generally relating to providing care and  
12 education to children in the State.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Education  
15 Section 7–1A–03  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

18 BY adding to  
19 Article – Education  
20 Section 9.5–117  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Education**

26 7–1A–03.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) Except as provided under subsection (b) of this section, a county board shall  
2 ensure that:

3 (1) Beginning in the 2022–2023 school year, prekindergarten slots  
4 provided by eligible private providers shall account for at least 30% of the total  
5 prekindergarten slots provided by eligible prekindergarten providers in each county;

6 (2) The proportion of eligible private provider prekindergarten slots in each  
7 county increases by 5 percentage points every school year, until, in the 2026–2027 school  
8 year, eligible private provider prekindergarten slots account for at least 50% of eligible  
9 prekindergarten provider prekindergarten slots in each county; and

10 (3) In each year after the 2026–2027 school year, the proportion of eligible  
11 private provider prekindergarten slots in each county shall continue to constitute at least  
12 50% of eligible prekindergarten provider prekindergarten slots in each county.

13 (b) (1) (I) The Department shall issue a waiver from the requirements of  
14 this section to a county board if:

15 [(i)] 1. All families in the county who desire to enroll their eligible  
16 children with eligible prekindergarten providers are able to do so; or

17 [(ii)] 2. After reasonable cross-jurisdictional or regional efforts,  
18 there are too few eligible private providers to meet the minimum requirements of this  
19 section.

20 (II) 1. **A COUNTY BOARD THAT REQUESTS A WAIVER UNDER  
21 THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN DEMONSTRATING HOW THE  
22 COUNTY INTENDS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS  
23 SECTION IN THE YEAR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF THE WAIVER.**

24 2. **THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL SUBMIT THE ACTION  
25 PLAN TO THE DEPARTMENT, THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION BOARD,  
26 AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE  
27 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE, THE  
28 SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT, THE  
29 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AND THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS  
30 COMMITTEE.**

31 (2) The Department may exclude by annual waiver Tier I children who are  
32 3 years old in a county from the calculation under subsection (a) of this section until the  
33 2029–2030 school year.

34 (3) The Department may exclude by annual waiver Tier I children who are  
35 4 years old in a county from the calculation under subsection (a) of this section until the

1 2026–2027 school year.

2 (4) The Department shall establish waiver application procedures to carry  
3 out the provisions of this subsection.

4 **9.5–117.**

5 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “CHILD CARE PROVIDER” MEANS A CHILD CARE  
6 CENTER, FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME, AND LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME.

7 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE  
8 ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION BOARD, SHALL ESTABLISH ASSISTANCE  
9 HUBS IN CENTRALIZED AND DIVERSE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO  
10 SUPPORT CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND COORDINATE PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE  
11 STATE’S MIXED DELIVERY SYSTEM.

12 (2) HUB LOCATIONS SHALL BE DETERMINED IN A MANNER THAT  
13 REFLECTS THE GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

14 (C) A HUB ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL ASSIST CHILD CARE  
15 PROVIDERS BY:

16 (1) PROVIDING ASSISTANCE WITH WRITING GRANT APPLICATIONS;

17 (2) PROVIDING SHARED BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS  
18 FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS WITH LIMITED STAFF;

19 (3) ENCOURAGING COLLABORATION WITH COUNTY BOARDS  
20 THROUGH THE PROVISION OF:

21 (I) INFORMATION ON THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN  
22 MIXED–DELIVERY PARTNERSHIPS;

23 (II) TEMPLATE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING FOR  
24 MIXED–DELIVERY PARTNERSHIPS; AND

25 (III) BUSINESS MODELS THAT MAY BE USED BY THE CHILD CARE  
26 PROVIDER WHEN PARTICIPATING IN MIXED–DELIVERY PARTNERSHIPS;

27 (4) REGULARLY FACILITATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SHARING  
28 OF INFORMATION ON BEST PRACTICES BETWEEN PUBLIC PROVIDERS, CHILD CARE  
29 PROVIDERS, COUNTY BOARDS, AND PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVES FROM  
30 DIFFERENT JURISDICTIONS IN THE STATE;

1           **(5) STRENGTHENING AND SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF**  
2 **RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HEAD START CENTERS, COUNTY BOARDS, AND**  
3 **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WITH PRIVATE CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO**  
4 **STREAMLINE GRANT PROCESSES, INCREASE HIGH-QUALITY SERVICES, AND ALIGN**  
5 **OUTCOMES;**

6           **(6) INVESTIGATING THE NEEDS OF AND PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR**  
7 **EDUCATORS WHOSE FIRST LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH;**

8           **(7) COORDINATING SUPPORT BETWEEN COUNTY BOARDS,**  
9 **COMMUNITY-BASED PROVIDERS, AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS TO PROVIDE**  
10 **VISION AND HEARING SCREENING FOR 3- AND 4-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN ENROLLED**  
11 **WITH CHILD CARE PROVIDERS RECEIVING GRANTS;**

12           **(8) FACILITATING COORDINATION FOR COLLABORATIVE MARKETING**  
13 **INITIATIVES BETWEEN COUNTY BOARDS AND COMMUNITY-BASED PROVIDERS TO**  
14 **INFORM FAMILIES OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED FULL-DAY**  
15 **PREKINDERGARTEN; AND**

16           **(9) SHARING AND PROMOTING RESOURCES WITH CHILD CARE**  
17 **PROVIDERS AND COUNTY BOARDS TO FACILITATE CONNECTIONS TO NONPROFIT**  
18 **ORGANIZATIONS WITH EXPERTISE IN ARTS, MUSIC, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,**  
19 **ENGINEERING, AND MATH EDUCATION FOR EARLY LEARNERS.**

20           **(D) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "COMMITTEE" MEANS THE CHILD CARE**  
21 **PROVIDER HUB ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

22           **(2) THERE IS A CHILD CARE PROVIDER HUB ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

23           **(3) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF:**

24                   **(I) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED**  
25 **BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

26                   **(II) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED**  
27 **BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

28                   **(III) THE ASSISTANT STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE**  
29 **DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, OR THE ASSISTANT STATE**  
30 **SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

31                   **(IV) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE**  
32 **GOVERNOR:**

1                   1.    **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE EARLY**  
2 **CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL WHO IS NOT EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT;**

3                   2.    **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL EARLY**  
4 **CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL WHO REPRESENTS A REGIONAL HUB**  
5 **ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION;**

6                   3.    **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ACCOUNTABILITY**  
7 **AND IMPLEMENTATION BOARD;**

8                   4.    **ONE BLUEPRINT PILLAR ONE COORDINATOR;**

9                   5.    **ONE PARENT WITH A CHILD IN A PUBLIC CHILD CARE**  
10 **PROGRAM;**

11                  6.    **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN INSTITUTION OF**  
12 **HIGHER EDUCATION FOR EACH REGIONAL HUB ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION;**

13                  7.    **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL EDUCATION**  
14 **AGENCY FOR EACH REGIONAL HUB ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION;**

15                  8.    **ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM AN ELIGIBLE PUBLIC**  
16 **PROVIDER, AS DEFINED IN § 7-1A-01 OF THIS ARTICLE;**

17                  9.    **ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM AN ELIGIBLE PRIVATE**  
18 **PROVIDER, AS DEFINED IN § 7-1A-01 OF THIS ARTICLE;**

19                  10. **ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A FAMILY CHILD CARE**  
20 **HOME;**

21                  11. **ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A CHILD CARE CENTER;**  
22 **AND**

23                  12. **ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A REGIONAL OFFICE OF**  
24 **THE OFFICE OF CHILD CARE;**

25                  (v) **THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND FAMILY**  
26 **NETWORK, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

27                  (vi) **THE PRESIDENT OF SEIU LOCAL 500, OR THE**  
28 **PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

1                   **(VII) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND STATE FAMILY CHILD**  
2 **CARE ASSOCIATION, OR THE PRESIDENT’S DESIGNEE;**

3                   **(VIII) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND STATE CHILD CARE**  
4 **ASSOCIATION, OR THE PRESIDENT’S DESIGNEE;**

5                   **(IX) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND HEAD START**  
6 **ASSOCIATION, OR THE PRESIDENT’S DESIGNEE; AND**

7                   **(X) THE ASPIRE PROGRAM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE**  
8 **MARYLAND FAMILY CHILD CARE ALLIANCE, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S**  
9 **DESIGNEE.**

10                   **(4) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE**  
11 **FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.**

12                   **(5) THE TERM OF A MEMBER IS 4 YEARS.**

13                   **(6) A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS**  
14 **APPOINTED.**

15                   **(7) THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR**  
16 **ARE STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE**  
17 **COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 1, 2024.**

18                   **(8) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL**  
19 **A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.**

20                   **(9) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES**  
21 **ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND**  
22 **QUALIFIES.**

23                   **(10) THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE EACH QUARTER**  
24 **DURING A CALENDAR YEAR TO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER RELEVANT**  
25 **PARTIES ON ESTABLISHING AND FULFILLING THE PURPOSES OF THE HUBS**  
26 **ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

27                   **(11) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COMMITTEE.**

28                   **(12) A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE:**

29                   **(I) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION; BUT**

1                                   **(II) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER**  
2 **THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE**  
3 **BUDGET.**

4                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
5 1, 2024.