

HOUSE BILL 857

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1999 Regular Session
9lr0349

By: **Delegates Hubbard, Kopp, Proctor, R. Baker, A. Jones, Pitkin, Hecht,
Rosenberg, Kagan, Turner, Cryor, Oaks, Benson, Grosfeld, Frush, Bobo,
Rosso, McIntosh, and Shriver**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Early Childhood - Home Visiting**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Program for Family Supported Early Childhood
4 Development and Education that emphasizes home visiting; defining certain
5 terms; designating the State Department of Education as the agency
6 supervising the Program; requiring the State Department of Education to select
7 a nongovernmental intermediary and an evaluator through a competitive
8 process; identifying the responsibilities of the nongovernmental intermediary
9 and the evaluator; establishing application procedures for the Program;
10 requiring the State Department of Education to submit certain reports;
11 prohibiting awards under this Act from supplanting certain other funding for
12 compensatory education programs; providing the basis for award distribution;
13 requiring the Governor to include a certain amount in the annual budget to fund
14 the Program; and generally relating to establishing the Program for Family
15 Supported Early Childhood Development and Education that emphasizes home
16 visiting.

17 BY adding to
18 Article - Education
19 Section 5-206.1
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

22 **Preamble**

23 WHEREAS, Research indicates that early caregiver-child interaction greatly
24 affects a child's emotional development, learning abilities, and later functioning; and

25 WHEREAS, There are "critical periods" in brain development beginning in
26 infancy when learning occurs most easily; and

27 WHEREAS, Research indicates that home visiting can reduce the risk of child
28 maltreatment, enhance effective use of community, medical, and social services by

1 families, enhance parent-child interaction, and improve parental functioning and
2 attitudes; and

3 WHEREAS, Most industrialized countries have long recognized the need to
4 support parents, often through home visiting; and

5 WHEREAS, Studies indicate that for every \$3 spent on prevention, there is a
6 \$6 savings in child welfare services, special education services, medical care, foster
7 care, counseling, and housing of juvenile offenders; now, therefore,

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

10 **Article - Education**

11 5-206.1.

12 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
13 INDICATED.

14 (2) "APPLICANT" MEANS A LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY, LOCAL
15 MANAGEMENT BOARD, SCHOOL, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, OR OTHER PUBLIC OR
16 PRIVATE ENTITY.

17 (3) "CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION" MEANS THE PHYSICAL,
18 SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND INTELLECTUAL GROWTH OF A CHILD FROM BIRTH TO 6
19 YEARS OLD, INCLUDING LANGUAGE AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION.

20 (4) "EVALUATOR" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT DESIGNS AND IMPLEMENTS
21 AN EVALUATION ORIENTED TOWARD MEASURABLE RESULTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL
22 HOME VISITING PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THIS SECTION.

23 (5) "NONGOVERNMENTAL INTERMEDIARY" MEANS A PRIVATE ENTITY
24 SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER
25 THIS SECTION.

26 (6) "PROJECT" MEANS AN APPROVED PROPOSAL FOR DIRECT SERVICES
27 TO MARYLAND FAMILIES TO PROMOTE CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION.

28 (B) (1) THERE IS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM THAT EMPHASIZES
29 HOME VISITING TO SUPPORT EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION AMONG
30 LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WHO HAVE:

31 (I) EARNINGS AT OR BELOW 200% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY
32 LEVEL; AND

33 (II) CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO 6 YEARS OLD.

34 (2) THE PROGRAM SHALL:

- 1 (I) BE VOLUNTARY;
- 2 (II) FOCUS ON A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION FROM
3 BIRTH TO 6 YEARS OLD;
- 4 (III) PROMOTE LONG-TERM FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN A CHILD'S
5 DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION;
- 6 (IV) USE AN ASSESSMENT TOOL TO SYSTEMATICALLY IDENTIFY
7 THE NEEDS OF A FAMILY;
- 8 (V) INITIATE SERVICES AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE;
- 9 (VI) INCLUDE EXTENSIVE OUTREACH AND LINKAGES WITH OTHER
10 SERVICES TO MEET NEEDS OF A FAMILY;
- 11 (VII) USE TRAINED AND QUALIFIED SERVICE PROVIDERS;
- 12 (VIII) BE MODELED AFTER PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN
13 DEMONSTRATED TO BE EFFECTIVE; AND
- 14 (IX) CONTAIN EVALUATION CRITERIA THAT INCLUDE SPECIFIC
15 MEASURABLE RESULTS.
- 16 (3) UNDER THE PROGRAM THERE SHALL BE INDIVIDUAL HOME
17 VISITING PROJECTS THAT INCLUDE A SCHEDULE OF REGULAR VISITS BETWEEN A
18 HOME VISITOR, THE FAMILY OF A CHILD, AND THE CHILD.
- 19 (4) THE VISITS MAY OCCUR IN THE HOME AND IN OTHER SETTINGS AS
20 APPROPRIATE.
- 21 (5) THE PURPOSES OF THE VISITS ARE TO:
- 22 (I) DEMONSTRATE AND PROMOTE APPROPRIATE
23 DEVELOPMENTAL AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN WHICH A PRIMARY CAREGIVER OR
24 GUARDIAN AND CHILD CAN PARTICIPATE TOGETHER;
- 25 (II) IMPROVE PARENTING SKILLS;
- 26 (III) ESTABLISH REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS FOR A CHILD'S
27 DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION AT EACH STAGE OF GROWTH; AND
- 28 (IV) DOCUMENT ADVANCEMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND
29 EDUCATION OF THE CHILD AND THE QUALITY OF THE HOME LEARNING
30 ENVIRONMENT.
- 31 (6) THE HOME VISITOR SHALL ADAPT THE PROJECT TO MEET THE
32 NEEDS OF THE CHILD AND THE CHILD'S FAMILY.
- 33 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

- 1 (I) SUPERVISE AND MONITOR THE PROGRAM;
- 2 (II) THROUGH A COMPETITIVE PROCESS, SELECT AND SUPERVISE A
3 NONGOVERNMENTAL INTERMEDIARY AND AN EVALUATOR;
- 4 (III) PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL HOME VISITING
5 PROJECTS UNDER THE PROGRAM, BASED ON RECOGNIZED EFFECTIVE PRACTICES IN
6 THE FIELD; AND
- 7 (IV) INCLUDE IN THE PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE
8 NONGOVERNMENTAL INTERMEDIARY AND THE EVALUATOR TO PERFORM THE
9 TASKS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.
- 10 (D) (1) AN APPLICANT MAY SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO A NONGOVERNMENTAL
11 INTERMEDIARY FOR A PROJECT UNDER THIS SECTION.
- 12 (2) IN THE PROPOSAL AN APPLICANT MAY IDENTIFY MORE THAN ONE
13 PROJECT TO RECEIVE FUNDS UNDER THIS SECTION.
- 14 (E) THE NONGOVERNMENTAL INTERMEDIARY SHALL:
- 15 (1) WITH THE ADVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE SUBCABINET FOR
16 CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, DEVELOP A
17 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FORM FOR USE IN SELECTING PROJECTS FOR
18 RECOMMENDATION TO THE DEPARTMENT;
- 19 (2) PREPARE AND DISTRIBUTE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FORMS TO
20 PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS;
- 21 (3) COLLECT AND EVALUATE THE COMPLETED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
22 FORMS;
- 23 (4) BASED ON THE COMPLETED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FORM,
24 RECOMMEND TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION THE PROPOSALS FOR
25 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS RECEIVED FROM APPLICANTS THAT THE
26 NONGOVERNMENTAL INTERMEDIARY DETERMINES TO BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE;
- 27 (5) DISTRIBUTE AND ACCOUNT FOR FUNDS APPROVED BY THE
28 DEPARTMENT FOR SELECTED PROJECTS;
- 29 (6) COORDINATE TRAINING OF AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
30 TO THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS THAT ARE IMPLEMENTING AN INDIVIDUAL HOME
31 VISITING PROJECT;
- 32 (7) ESTABLISH AND MONITOR PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR
33 PROJECTS;
- 34 (8) RAISE NONSTATE FUNDS TO ENHANCE AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR
35 THE PROGRAM;

1 (9) ASSIST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING
2 PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIVIDUAL
3 HOME VISITING PROJECTS; AND

4 (10) SUPPORT AND COORDINATE ALL INDIVIDUAL HOME VISITING
5 PROJECTS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THIS SECTION.

6 (F) THE EVALUATOR SHALL:

7 (1) WITH THE ADVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE SUBCABINET FOR
8 CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, DESIGN AN
9 EVALUATION OF INDIVIDUAL HOME VISITING PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THIS
10 SECTION;

11 (2) IMPLEMENT THE EVALUATION;

12 (3) MEASURE THE RESULTS OF PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE;
13 AND

14 (4) ANALYZE AND REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE EVALUATIONS OF
15 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS TO THE DEPARTMENT ANNUALLY.

16 (G) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

17 (1) ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF
18 THIS SECTION;

19 (2) SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE
20 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF
21 EACH YEAR A REPORT DESCRIBING THE PROGRAM AND THE PROGRESS AND
22 EXPENDITURES FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL HOME VISITING PROJECT FOR THE PREVIOUS
23 YEAR; AND

24 (3) SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE
25 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2002, A
26 SEPARATE REPORT EVALUATING THE PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAM, BASED ON THE
27 EVALUATION CRITERIA UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION.

28 (G) AWARDS MADE UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE USED TO SUPPLANT
29 EXISTING FUNDING FOR COMPENSATORY EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AS DEFINED IN §
30 5-202(E) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

31 (H) FUNDING UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO ALL COUNTY
32 GOVERNMENTS THROUGH A FORMULA BASED ON THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES WHOSE
33 INCOMES ARE AT OR BELOW 200% OF THE POVERTY LEVEL ACCORDING TO FEDERAL
34 GUIDELINES.

35 (I) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET AT LEAST
36 \$5,000,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000, \$7,500,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001, AND \$10,000,000
37 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002 AND THEREAFTER, FOR INDIVIDUAL HOME VISITING

1 PROJECTS UNDER THE PROGRAM TO SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
2 AND EDUCATION.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 July 1, 1999.