

BY: Budget and Taxation Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1249

(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2 strike "Smart Start Initiative" and substitute "Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program"; and strike beginning with "Smart" in line 3 down through "funding" in line 15 and substitute "Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program; providing that the Program shall be funded as provided in the State budget; providing that funds that are allocated to the Program in the State budget may be used for certain purposes; authorizing the Maryland State Department of Education to distribute grants to county boards of education for certain purposes under certain circumstances; authorizing the Department to distribute grants to certain private entities for certain purposes under certain circumstances; establishing application procedures for the grants; authorizing the Department to distribute funds to a county board of education for the purpose of implementing a certain early childhood assessment system; establishing certain procedures and requirements relating to administration and evaluation of the Program; requiring that certain funds be appropriated for certain purposes in a certain fiscal year; providing that in a certain fiscal year a certain special fund may be used for a certain purpose; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 28, strike "NATIONAL OR"; in the same line, after the second "AGENCY" insert "OR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION"; in line 30, strike "IN" and substitute "THROUGH"; after line 32, insert:

"(5) "EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT"
MEANS A GRANT THAT IS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.";

in line 33, strike "(5)" and substitute "(6)"; and in line 34, strike "WORKING".

(Over)

On page 3, strike in their entirety lines 2 through 5, inclusive, and substitute:

“(7) “JUDY CENTER” MEANS A SITE WHERE COMPREHENSIVE EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES ARE PROVIDED TO YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING SCHOOL READINESS THROUGH COLLABORATION WITH PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS.

(8) “JUDY CENTER GRANT” MEANS A GRANT THAT IS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

(9) “LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD” MEANS A LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE 49D, § 11 OF THE CODE.”;

in line 6, strike “(7)” and substitute “(10)”; and after line 18, insert:

“(11) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE JUDITH P. HOYER EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On pages 3 through 6, strike beginning with line 19 on page 3 through line 9 on page 6 and substitute:

“(B) (1) THERE IS A JUDITH P. HOYER EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROMOTE SCHOOL READINESS THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO THE DELIVERY OF HIGH QUALITY, COMPREHENSIVE, FULL-DAY EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.

(C) (1) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

(2) FUNDS THAT ARE ALLOCATED TO THE PROGRAM IN THE STATE BUDGET MAY BE USED:

(I) TO COVER THE COSTS INCURRED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN IMPLEMENTING AND ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM;

(II) FOR JUDY CENTER GRANTS, AS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION;

(III) FOR EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT GRANTS, AS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION; AND

(IV) TO FUND THE STATEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSESSMENT SYSTEM, AS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION.

(D) THE DEPARTMENT MAY DISTRIBUTE A JUDY CENTER GRANT TO A COUNTY BOARD IF THE COUNTY BOARD SUBMITS AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT INCLUDES:

(1) A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COUNTY BOARD, THE PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS, AND, IN THE DISCRETION OF THE COUNTY BOARD, THE LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD THAT INCLUDES:

(I) THE TERMS OF THE COLLABORATION TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE COUNTY BOARD, THE PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS, AND, IF APPLICABLE, THE LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD, INCLUDING THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH OF THESE ENTITIES; AND

(II) A PLAN FOR ESTABLISHING ONGOING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDERS AND PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND

(2) DOCUMENTATION THAT SHOWS THAT:

(I) THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSESSMENT SYSTEM WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE CENTER;

(II) ALL PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES THROUGH THE CENTER HAVE VOLUNTARILY OBTAINED ACCREDITATION OR, BY THE DATE OF THE GRANT APPLICATION, HAVE VOLUNTARILY INITIATED AND ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING ACCREDITATION; AND

(III) THE CENTER WILL PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE, FULL-DAY EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.

(E) (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY DISTRIBUTE AN EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT TO A COUNTY BOARD TO BE USED TO PURCHASE EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES FROM PROVIDERS THAT HAVE VOLUNTARILY OBTAINED ACCREDITATION OR HAVE VOLUNTARILY INITIATED AND ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING ACCREDITATION.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY DISTRIBUTE AN EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT TO A PRIVATE PROVIDER OF EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES TO BE USED:

(I) TO ASSIST THE PROVIDER IN VOLUNTARILY OBTAINING ACCREDITATION; OR

(II) FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES LEADING TO INCREASED COMPETENCY AND APPROPRIATE CREDENTIALING THAT IS RELATED TO EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES.

(F) THE DEPARTMENT MAY DISTRIBUTE FUNDS TO A COUNTY BOARD FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSESSMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

(G) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(I) ESTABLISH APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING JUDY CENTER GRANTS AND EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT GRANTS AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION;

(II) SUPERVISE AND MONITOR THE USE OF GRANT FUNDS DISTRIBUTED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

(III) EVALUATE WHETHER GRANT RECIPIENTS ARE MEETING ANNUAL BENCHMARKS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) FOR JUDY CENTER GRANTS, THE DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD MULTIYEAR FUNDING.

(H) A COUNTY BOARD THAT IS SELECTED TO RECEIVE A JUDY CENTER GRANT OR AN EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES SHALL:

(1) ADMINISTER THE GRANT AWARD;

(2) SUBMIT FISCAL AND PROGRAM REPORTS AS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

(3) COORDINATE THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS IN ANY EVALUATION PROCESS CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(I) GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE USED:

(1) TO SUPPLANT EXISTING FUNDING FOR ANY SERVICES PROVIDED BY PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS; OR

(2) FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

(J) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT THROUGH A COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS AND SUPERVISE AN EVALUATOR WHO SHALL DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT AN EVALUATION PROCESS TO MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF:

(1) THE JUDY CENTERS; AND

(2) EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES THAT ARE PURCHASED WITH FUNDS FROM EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT GRANTS.

(K) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

(1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR, A REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM'S EXPENDITURES; AND

(2) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2004, A SEPARATE REPORT THAT INCLUDES AN EVALUATION, BASED ON OBJECTIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT, OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF:

(I) THE JUDY CENTERS; AND

(II) EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES THAT ARE PURCHASED WITH FUNDS FROM EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT GRANTS.

(L) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor shall include the following appropriations in the fiscal year 2001 budget of the Maryland State Department of Education to fund the Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program established under this Act: (1) \$4,000,000 for Judy Center Grants; (2) \$1,000,000 for Early Child

Care and Education Enhancement Grants to be awarded to providers of early child care and education services who have voluntarily obtained accreditation or have voluntarily initiated and are actively pursuing accreditation; (3) \$1,300,000 for statewide implementation of the Department's early childhood assessment system; and (4) \$700,000 to cover the costs incurred by the Department in implementing the Program.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding § 7-317(d) and (g) of the State Finance and Procurement Article, in fiscal year 2001, the Cigarette Restitution Fund established under § 7-317 of the State Finance and Procurement Article may be used to fund implementation of the Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program established under this Act. In fiscal year 2001, the Governor may transfer funds by budget amendment from the Cigarette Restitution Fund to the Maryland State Department of Education for the purpose of funding the Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program in the amounts specified under Section 2 of this Act."

On page 6, in line 10, strike "3." and substitute "4.".