

HOUSE BILL 1249

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2000 Regular Session
0lr2540
CF 0lr2854

By: **Delegates Shriver and Taylor**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Judith P. Hoyer Smart Start Initiative**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Judith P. Hoyer Smart Start Initiative, a grant
4 program for early child care and education centers and education enhancement
5 and the development of collaborative approaches for the delivery of full-day
6 early care and education and family support services; defining certain terms;
7 designating the Department of Education as the agency supervising the grant
8 program; requiring the Department to distribute the grant funds under the
9 program created by this Act to local school systems on a competitive basis;
10 limiting local school system use of funds to certain purposes; requiring the
11 Department to select an evaluator through a competitive process to measure the
12 effectiveness of the collaborations; requiring the Department to submit certain
13 reports; prohibiting awards under this Act from supplanting other funding; and
14 generally relating to the Judith P. Hoyer Smart Start Initiative and early child
15 care and education centers and education enhancement grant funding.

16 BY adding to
17 Article - Education
18 Section 5-213
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1999 Replacement Volume)

21 **Preamble**

22 WHEREAS, Recent brain research confirms that the most rapid brain growth
23 occurs in the first three years of life; and

24 WHEREAS, A stimulating environment is essential to brain development and
25 has a major impact on a child's language and cognitive and emotional development;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, The overwhelming evidence suggests that it is best to capitalize on
28 the brain's elasticity before age 5, the age at which public education is guaranteed;
29 and

1 WHEREAS, High quality early care and education programs make a significant
2 contribution to the development of skills required by young children to succeed in
3 school; and

4 WHEREAS, Not all Maryland children have access to quality early care and
5 education programs; and

6 WHEREAS, There is an imperative need to improve access to quality early care
7 and education programs through collaborative partnerships; and

8 WHEREAS, Judith P. Hoyer dedicated her life to the education and care of
9 young children and their families; now, therefore,

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

12 **Article - Education**

13 5-213.

14 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
15 INDICATED.

16 (2) "ACCREDITATION" MEANS THE DETERMINATION THAT A PROGRAM
17 MEETS QUALITY STANDARDS DEFINED BY THE ACCREDITING AGENCY BEYOND
18 STATE CHILD CARE REGULATIONS.

19 (3) "ACCREDITING AGENCY" MEANS A NATIONAL OR STATE AGENCY
20 THAT HAS DEVELOPED A RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING PROCESS.

21 (4) "CREDENTIALING" MEANS THE PROCESS IN WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL
22 IS AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE BASED ON EDUCATION AND
23 EXPERIENCE.

24 (5) "FULL DAY" MEANS A PERIOD OF TIME DURING THE DAY THAT:

25 (I) MEETS THE NEEDS OF WORKING FAMILIES; AND

26 (II) IS NOT LESS THAN 7 HOURS OR MORE THAN 12 HOURS PER DAY.

27 (6) "PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS" INCLUDES:

28 (I) PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS;

29 (II) HEAD START PROGRAMS;

30 (III) FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES;

31 (IV) LOCAL INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAMS;

32 (V) CHILD CARE CENTERS AND FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES;

1 (VI) FAMILY SUPPORT CENTERS;

2 (VII) HEALTHY FAMILY SITES;

3 (VIII) PARENT INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMS;

4 (IX) EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AFFILIATED WITH
5 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND

6 (X) OTHER HOME VISITING, COMMUNITY HEALTH, FAMILY
7 SUPPORT SERVICES, AND CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCIES.

8 (B) THE JUDITH P. HOYER SMART START INITIATIVE, WHICH IS A GRANT
9 PROGRAM FOR EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION CENTERS AND EDUCATION
10 ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM, IS ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE SCHOOL
11 READINESS THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF
12 COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO THE DELIVERY OF HIGH QUALITY,
13 COMPREHENSIVE, FULL-DAY EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND
14 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.

15 (C) THE GRANT FUNDS SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND
16 USED TO SUPPORT AND EXPAND COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO EARLY CHILD
17 CARE AND EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES THROUGH COORDINATION
18 WITH PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS AND AGENCIES.

19 (D) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM MAY APPLY FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS
20 SECTION.

21 (E) EACH APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT SHALL INCLUDE:

22 (1) A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LOCAL SCHOOL
23 SYSTEM AND THE PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDES:

24 (I) THE TERMS OF THE COLLABORATION TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY
25 THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM AND THE PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS;

26 (II) THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL
27 SYSTEM AND THE PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS; AND

28 (III) A PLAN FOR ESTABLISHING ONGOING COMMUNICATION
29 BETWEEN NONPUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDERS AND PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY
30 EDUCATION PROGRAMS;

31 (2) DOCUMENTATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLY CHILDHOOD
32 ASSESSMENT SYSTEM WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE:

33 (I) MEASURABLE OUTCOMES TO BE ACHIEVED BY THE
34 COLLABORATION; AND

35 (II) PROCEDURES FOR MEASURING ANNUAL PERFORMANCE;

1 (3) DOCUMENTATION THAT EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION
2 PROGRAMS:

3 (I) MEET VOLUNTARY STATE ACCREDITATION BASED ON
4 NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CRITERIA; OR

5 (II) HAVE INITIATED THE PROCESS OF VOLUNTARY STATE
6 ACCREDITATION BY DECEMBER 1, 2000; AND

7 (4) DOCUMENTATION THAT THE COLLABORATION WILL PROVIDE
8 COMPREHENSIVE, FULL-DAY EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION, AND FAMILY
9 SUPPORT SERVICES.

10 (F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

11 (1) ESTABLISH APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR THE GRANT;

12 (2) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF
13 FUNDS IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET, AWARD 3-YEAR FUNDING TO LOCAL SCHOOL
14 SYSTEMS ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS;

15 (3) SUPERVISE AND MONITOR THE GRANT FUNDS; AND

16 (4) VERIFY THAT GRANT RECIPIENTS ARE MEETING ANNUAL
17 BENCHMARKS.

18 (G) LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS SELECTED TO RECEIVE GRANTS UNDER THIS
19 SECTION SHALL:

20 (1) PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE, FULL-DAY EARLY CARE AND
21 EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
22 PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS;

23 (2) ADMINISTER THE GRANT AWARD ON BEHALF OF THE
24 PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE COLLABORATION;

25 (3) SUBMIT FISCAL AND PROGRAM REPORTS AS REQUIRED BY THE
26 DEPARTMENT; AND

27 (4) COORDINATE THE INVOLVEMENT OF ALL PARTICIPATING AGENCIES
28 AND PROGRAMS IN THE EVALUATION PROCESS CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

29 (H) GRANTS AWARDED TO LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS UNDER THIS SECTION
30 SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES THAT CREATE OR ENHANCE THE
31 COLLABORATIVE DELIVERY OF SERVICES THROUGH PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND
32 PROGRAMS INCLUDING:

33 (1) ASSISTING EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO MEET
34 VOLUNTARY STATE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS;

1 (2) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES LEADING TO INCREASED
2 COMPETENCY AND APPROPRIATE CREDENTIALING RELATED TO EARLY CARE AND
3 EDUCATION SERVICES;

4 (3) MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES;

5 (4) THE PURCHASE OF AND CONTRACTING FOR EARLY CARE AND
6 EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES; AND

7 (5) PERSONNEL TO COORDINATE THE COLLABORATION.

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

9 (1) TO SUPPLANT EXISTING FUNDING FOR ANY PARTICIPATING
10 PROGRAM OR SERVICE; OR

11 (2) FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

12 (J) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT THROUGH A COMPETITIVE BIDDING
13 PROCESS AND SUPERVISE AN EVALUATOR WHO SHALL DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT AN
14 EVALUATION PROCESS TO MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
15 COLLABORATIONS.

16 (K) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY:

18 (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR, A REPORT DESCRIBING
19 THE PROGRESS AND THE EXPENDITURES OF THE FUND; AND

20 (2) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2004, A SEPARATE REPORT EVALUATING
21 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES BASED ON THE
22 EVALUATION CRITERIA.

23 (L) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ADMINISTER THE
24 GRANT PROGRAM AND TO REQUIRE THAT ALL EXISTING EARLY ELEMENTARY
25 EDUCATION PROGRAMS BE NAMED JUDITH P. HOYER EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor shall
27 include \$8 million in the fiscal year 2001 budget of the Department of Education to
28 fund the grant program established by this Act.

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 July 1, 2000.