

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2000
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

27 WHEREAS, While the State and federal governments support public
28 education and provide substantial support to public colleges, and State and federal

1 governments make substantial contributions targeted to early child care and
2 education for low-income families, public funding of early child care and education for
3 middle-income families is minimal; and

4 WHEREAS, Nationally, experts in financing are reviewing new approaches to
5 funding early child care and education services, including approaches modeled after
6 the funding mechanisms used for higher education; and

7 WHEREAS, A blue ribbon commission created by the State would make
8 possible an intensive review of innovative approaches to funding early child care and
9 education, including approaches modeled after methods used in financing higher
10 education, transportation, and housing; now, therefore,

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

13 (a) There is a Judith P. Hoyer Blue Ribbon Commission on the Financing of
14 Early Child Care and Education.

15 (b) The purpose of the Commission is to examine the costs and availability of
16 funding for early child care and education.

17 (c) The Commission shall:

18 (1) determine the total costs of early child care and education;

19 (2) develop a coherent funding structure for early child care and
20 education in Maryland, which may include:

21 (i) a tiered reimbursement system for the purchase of early child
22 care and education, under which providers would be reimbursed at scheduled
23 percentages of and above market rates;

24 (ii) incentives for providers and programs, including wage
25 supplements and retention grants, that are linked to the educational attainments of
26 children receiving early child care and education; or

27 (iii) the inclusion of early child care and education, or at least
28 prekindergarten programs, in the State education funding formula;

29 (3) review and identify the sources for any available and potentially
30 available funding from the federal government for early child care and education;

31 (4) review and identify potentially available public and private funding
32 sources, other than the federal government, for early child care and education;

33 (5) identify methods for reducing the costs to middle-income parents of
34 early child care and education; and

35 (6) develop a specific plan and time line for implementation of programs
36 developed.

1 (d) The Commission consists of 25 members.

2 (e) The members of the Commission are:

3 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
4 as follows:

5 (i) one member of the Budget and Taxation Committee; and

6 (ii) one member of the Economic and Environmental Affairs
7 Committee;

8 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker as
9 follows:

10 (i) one member of the Appropriations Committee; and

11 (ii) one member of the Ways and Means Committee;

12 (3) the House and Senate Chairmen of the Joint Committee on Children,
13 Youth, and Families of the General Assembly;

14 (4) the State Superintendent of Schools or the State Superintendent's
15 designee;

16 (5) the Secretary of Budget and Management or the Secretary's designee;

17 (6) the Secretary of Human Resources or the Secretary's designee;

18 (7) the Secretary of Higher Education or the Secretary's designee;

19 (8) the Special Secretary for the Office of Children, Youth, and Families
20 in the Governor's Office or the Special Secretary's designee;

21 (9) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development or the
22 Secretary's designee;

23 (10) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development or the
24 Secretary's designee; and

25 (11) the following members appointed by the Governor:

26 (i) one representative of the Maryland Child Care Resource
27 Network;

28 (ii) one representative of the University System of Maryland;

29 (iii) one representative of community colleges in the State;

30 (iv) two representatives of the Maryland business community;

- 1 (v) one representative of the banking industry in the State;
- 2 (vi) one representative of family child care providers in the State;
- 3 (vii) one representative of child care centers in the State;
- 4 (viii) two parents of children in child care programs in the State;
- 5 (ix) one representative of a child advocacy group; and
- 6 (x) one economist who is familiar with innovative funding
- 7 strategies.

8 (f) (1) A member appointed by the Governor shall be appointed on or before
9 July 1, 2000.

10 (2) A member shall serve until the end of December 31, 2001.

11 (g) The chairman of the Commission shall be appointed jointly by the
12 Governor, the President, and the Speaker on or before July 1, 2000.

13 (h) (1) The first meeting of the Commission shall be held on or before
14 September 1, 2000.

15 (2) The Commission shall hold subsequent meetings at times and
16 locations determined by the Commission.

17 (i) A member of the Commission:

18 (1) may not receive compensation; but

19 (2) shall receive compensation for expenses under the Standard State
20 Travel Regulations as provided in the State budget.

21 (j) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide the staff for the
22 Commission from among its fiscal analysts.

23 (k) The Commission shall issue to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the
24 State Government Article, to the General Assembly:

25 (1) on or before December 31, 2000, an interim report on its findings; and

26 (2) on or before December 31, 2001, a final report on its findings.

27 (l) The Commission shall terminate at the end of December 31, 2001.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 July 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the
30 end of December 31, 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
31 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.