
By: **Senator Kasemeyer**
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CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Judith P. Hoyer Blue Ribbon Commission on the Financing of Early Child**
3 **Care and Education**

4 FOR the purpose of creating the Judith P. Hoyer Blue Ribbon Commission on the
5 Financing of Early Child Care and Education; providing for the purpose, duties,
6 and membership of the Commission; providing for the terms and compensation
7 of its members; providing for the appointment of its members; requiring the
8 Commission to meet at certain times and issue reports on or before certain
9 dates; providing for the termination of the Commission and the termination of
10 this Act; and generally relating to the creation of a Commission charged with
11 studying the financing of early child care and education in the State.

12 Preamble

13 WHEREAS, Maryland's greatest resource is its children; and

14 WHEREAS, Maryland's youngest children must receive an early child care
15 and education that provide a safe, nurturing, educational, and culturally affirming
16 environment, in order to ensure that they enter the school system prepared to
17 succeed; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1999, the State annual average cost for full-time child care for
19 a child 5 years or younger was \$6,112; and

20 WHEREAS, Nationally, approximately 60% of the \$40 billion spent annually
21 on early child care and education is paid by the families of those children; and

1 WHEREAS, The vast majority of the money spent goes to pay for direct
2 services to children, with only a small percentage supporting infrastructure, such as
3 quality assurance and capital costs for facilities; and

4 WHEREAS, A growing body of research has revealed the critical importance of
5 early child care and education to later achievement and learning; and

6 WHEREAS, While the State and federal governments support public
7 education and provide substantial support to public colleges, and State and federal
8 governments make substantial contributions targeted to early child care and
9 education for low-income families, public funding of early child care and education for
10 middle-income families is minimal; and

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

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

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 MARYLAND, That:

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

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

24 (c) The Commission shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (d) The Commission consists of 25 members.

10 (e) The members of the Commission are:

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

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

14 (ii) one member of the Economic and Environmental Affairs
15 Committee;

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

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

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

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

22 (4) the State Superintendent of Schools or the State Superintendent's
23 designee;

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

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

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

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

29 (9) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development or the
30 Secretary's designee;

31 (10) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development or the
32 Secretary's designee; and

1 (11) the following members appointed by the Governor:
2 (i) one representative of the Maryland Child Care Resource
3 Network;
4 (ii) one representative of the University System of Maryland;
5 (iii) one representative of community colleges in the State;
6 (iv) two representatives of the Maryland business community;
7 (v) one representative of the banking industry in the State;
8 (vi) one representative of family child care providers in the State;
9 (vii) one representative of child care centers in the State;
10 (viii) two parents of children in child care programs in the State;
11 (ix) one representative of a child advocacy group; and
12 (x) one economist who is familiar with innovative funding
13 strategies.

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

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

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

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

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

23 (i) A member of the Commission:

24 (1) may not receive compensation; but

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

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

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

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

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

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

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