

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 793 (Senator Kasemever. *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program

This bill establishes the Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program to promote school readiness through developing and expanding high quality, comprehensive, full-day early child care and education programs and family support services. Local school systems are eligible to apply for grants under the program. The Governor must include \$7 million in the proposed fiscal 2001 State budget for this program.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund expenditures would increase by \$7 million annually beginning in FY 2001. The FY 2001 State budget includes \$7 million for this program: \$5 million from the Cigarette Restitution Fund and \$2 million from the Transitional Education Fund. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: Local school systems could receive up to \$6.3 million in FY 2001 to develop and expand early child care and education program and family services.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program would provide grants to local school systems to develop and expand high quality, comprehensive, full-day early child care and education programs and family support services. Private providers of early child care and education services may receive a grant to assist them in obtaining accreditation or to provide professional development activities leading to increased competency and appropriate credentialing. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is required to administer the program and to award funding to local school systems.

The program will be funded as provided in the State budget. The funds may be used for: (1) administrative costs incurred by MSDE; (2) Judy Center Grants; (3) Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Grants; and (4) statewide implementation of MSDE's early childhood assessment system.

MSDE must submit a report on the implementation of the program to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1 of each year. In addition, MSDE must submit a separate report evaluating the effectiveness of the Judy Centers and early child care and education services and family support services that are purchased from Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Grants by January 1, 2004.

Current Law: Maryland provides several early education and intervention services to families. Currently there is one Judy Hoyer Center located in Prince George's County. The center's program is located in a building owned and operated by the Prince George's County Public School System. The center provides before and after school care, Head Start and Even Start services, limited English proficiency classes, and family support services. Funding sources for these services include federal, State, county, and tuition.

Background: Maryland provides several early learning intervention programs for children, including the Extended Elementary Education Program (EEEP), prekindergarten and Head Start programs, Even Start Family Literacy Program, Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program, and the Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR). Approximately 20,000 Maryland children are enrolled in public or private prekindergarten programs. This includes 3,000 four-year old students with disabilities and 8,400 students enrolled in Head Start programs. EEEP is a public school prekindergarten program for four-year-old children identified as having a high potential for failure in school. Over 11,000 students are enrolled in this program with State funding at \$19.3 million in fiscal 2001.

The Even Start Family Literacy Program integrates early childhood education, adult literacy and adult basic education, and parenting education into a unified family literacy program by building upon existing community resources. Approximately 175 low-income families are served at 11 sites.

The Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program administers a statewide, interagency early intervention system for children, birth to age three, with developmental delays and disabilities. The program ensures that eligible children and their families have access to health, education, and social support services. Approximately 6,900 children and their families received early intervention services through 24 local Infants and Toddlers programs.

The Maryland Model for School Readiness is a professional development initiative designed to improve instruction to four- and five-year olds and to enhance communication with their families. This program helps teachers match curriculum, assessment, and instruction to the State's end-of-kindergarten readiness expectation. More than 300 teachers affecting over 7,000 prekindergarten and kindergarten students have participated.

Georgia provides prekindergarten programs to all four-year olds, regardless of parental income. Georgia State University conducted a longitudinal study comparing 315 at-risk children who participated in the prekindergarten program to a matched sample of children who did not. By the end of kindergarten, the participating children surpassed nonparticipating children in five areas of development, promotion to first grade, and attendance. By the completion of the first grade, the participating children scored higher on ten separate measures of academic development and achievement and topped the national average on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

New York law provides for a universal prekindergarten program for all four-year olds. The program, open to all school districts, will be funded through the 2002-03 school year. Programs can be offered by schools or other early childhood providers.

State Fiscal Effect: The bill requires the Governor to include \$7 million in the fiscal 2001 State budget for the program, as follows: \$4.0 million for Judy Center Grants; \$1.0 million for Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Grants to providers of early child care and education services who have voluntarily initiated and are actively seeking accreditation; \$1.3 million for statewide implementation of MSDE's early childhood assessment system; and \$700,000 to cover MSDE's administrative costs. The Cigarette Restitution Fund may be used to fund the program in fiscal 2001.

The fiscal 2001 State budget includes \$7.0 million in special funds for this program: \$5.0 million for Judy Center Grants and Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Grants

from the Cigarette Restitution Fund and \$2.0 million for program administration and implementation of the early childhood assessment system from the Transition Education Fund.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1249 (Delegate Shriver, *et al.* - Ways and Means) is identified as a cross file, although it is not identical.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

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