

HOUSE BILL 635

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2003 Regular Session
(31r0967)

ENROLLED BILL

-- *Ways and Means/Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs* --

Introduced by **Delegates Hixson, Cardin, Healey, King, Ramirez, and ~~Ross~~**
Ross, Bartlett, Boschert, Bozman, Cryor, C. Davis, Elmore, Gordon,
Heller, Howard, Jones, Kaiser, Marriott, McKee, Myers, Patterson, and
Rzepkowski

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Early Childhood Educational and Developmental Programs**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing early childhood educational and developmental
4 programs to enter certain agreements to promote certain programs; providing
5 that the purpose of the agreement is to collaborate and develop a plan to provide
6 certain information to certain parents; requiring the State Department of
7 Education to assist in developing the agreement, monitor and review results
8 from the agreement, and submit a certain annual report; requiring the Governor
9 to include certain funding in the State budget; and generally relating to early
10 childhood educational and developmental programs.

11 BY adding to

12 Article - Education

13 Section 8-601 and 8-602 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 6. Early

1 Childhood Educational and Developmental Programs"
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

4 Preamble

5 WHEREAS, Maryland recognizes the need to provide early education programs
6 for children under the age of 6 years; and

7 WHEREAS, The Early Head Start and Head Start programs, in addition to
8 Judy Centers, prekindergarten programs, child care centers, and child care providers
9 offer educational services to meet the needs of children and families; and

10 WHEREAS, Children and pregnant women participating in Early Head Start
11 and Head Start programs receive significantly more health care screening than
12 non-Head Start mothers and children; and

13 WHEREAS, Low-income and at risk children who participate in early childhood
14 programs like Early Head Start, Head Start, the Judy Centers, prekindergarten
15 programs, and child care centers are less likely to be held back in school or to be
16 placed in special education classes; and

17 WHEREAS, Maryland must take steps to obtain the goal of universal access for
18 all children in the State who qualify for Head Start programs; ~~now, therefore, and~~

19 WHEREAS, Maryland has a collaborative, public awareness campaign on early
20 childhood, namely the Maryland Public Engagement Campaign, and further has a
21 5-year action agenda for achieving school readiness, presented to the Subcabinet for
22 Children, Youth, and Families by the Leadership in Action Program; now, therefore,

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

25 **Article - Education**

26 SUBTITLE 6. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS.

27 8-601.

28 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, "EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND
29 DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM" INCLUDES:

- 30 (1) HEAD START PROGRAMS;
31 (2) JUDY CENTERS;
32 (3) PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS;
33 (4) EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS; AND

1 (5) CHILD CARE CENTERS.

2 (B) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS IN
3 THE STATE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL
4 NETWORK, MAY ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE EARLY CHILDHOOD
5 EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS.

6 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT IS TO BRING TOGETHER EARLY
7 CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS IN THE STATE TO
8 COLLABORATE AND DEVELOP A PLAN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO A PARENT OR
9 GUARDIAN OF INDIGENT OR AT-RISK CHILDREN REGARDING:

10 (1) THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION;

11 (2) THE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MARYLAND
12 CHILD CARE RESOURCE ~~AND REFERRAL~~ NETWORK;

13 (3) THE AVAILABILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUNG
14 CHILDREN AND CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES;

15 (4) THE AVAILABILITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PRENATAL HEALTH
16 SCREENING;

17 (5) THE AVAILABILITY OF FAMILY AND HOME-BASED SUPPORTS,
18 EDUCATION ON PRENATAL CARE, AND PARENTAL EDUCATION; AND

19 (6) THE AVAILABILITY OF SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAMS.
20 8-602.

21 THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHILD CARE
22 ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SHALL:

23 (1) ASSIST IN DEVELOPING THE AGREEMENT UNDER § 8-602 OF THIS
24 SUBTITLE;

25 (2) MONITOR AND REVIEW THE RESULTS FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD
26 PROGRAM AGREEMENT; AND

27 (3) SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR
28 BEFORE DECEMBER 1, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT
29 ARTICLE, ON THE EFFECTIVENESS AND SUCCESS OF THE AGREEMENT IN
30 PROMOTING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That for fiscal year 2005, and
32 each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an
33 appropriation at least equal to the fiscal 2003 appropriation ~~for early childhood~~
34 ~~education programs including Head Start, the Judy Centers, prekindergarten, and~~
35 ~~kindergarten programs and child care centers~~ *for Head Start and the Judy Centers.*

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2003.