
By: **Delegates Hixson, Cardin, Healey, King, Ramirez, and Ross**
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2003
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

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
14 Childhood Educational and Developmental Programs"
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

17 Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 **Article - Education**

6 SUBTITLE 6. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS.

7 8-601.

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

- 10 (1) HEAD START PROGRAMS;
- 11 (2) JUDY CENTERS;
- 12 (3) PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS;
- 13 (4) EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS; AND
- 14 (5) CHILD CARE CENTERS.

15 (B) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS IN
16 THE STATE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL
17 NETWORK, MAY ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE EARLY CHILDHOOD
18 EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS.

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

- 23 (1) THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION;
- 24 (2) THE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MARYLAND
25 CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL NETWORK;
- 26 (3) THE AVAILABILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN
27 WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES;
- 28 (4) THE AVAILABILITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PRENATAL HEALTH
29 SCREENING;
- 30 (5) THE AVAILABILITY OF FAMILY AND HOME-BASED SUPPORTS,
31 EDUCATION ON PRENATAL CARE, AND PARENTAL EDUCATION; AND
- 32 (6) THE AVAILABILITY OF SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAMS.

1 8-602.

2 THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHILD CARE
3 ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SHALL:

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

6 (2) MONITOR AND REVIEW THE RESULTS FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD
7 PROGRAM AGREEMENT; AND

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

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That for fiscal year 2005, and
13 each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an
14 appropriation at least equal to the fiscal 2003 appropriation for early childhood
15 education programs including Head Start, the Judy Centers, prekindergarten, and
16 kindergarten programs.

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