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

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2003

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 2003

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
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

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

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

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

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

13 WHEREAS, Maryland has a collaborative, public awareness campaign on early
14 childhood, namely the Maryland Public Engagement Campaign, and further has a
15 5-year action agenda for achieving school readiness, presented to the Subcabinet for
16 Children, Youth, and Families by the Leadership in Action Program; now, therefore,

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

19 **Article - Education**

20 SUBTITLE 6. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS.

21 8-601.

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

- 24 (1) HEAD START PROGRAMS;
25 (2) JUDY CENTERS;
26 (3) PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS;
27 (4) EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS; AND
28 (5) CHILD CARE CENTERS.

29 (B) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS IN
30 THE STATE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL
31 NETWORK, MAY ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE EARLY CHILDHOOD
32 EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS.

33 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT IS TO BRING TOGETHER EARLY
34 CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS IN THE STATE TO

1 COLLABORATE AND DEVELOP A PLAN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO A PARENT OR
2 GUARDIAN OF INDIGENT OR AT-RISK CHILDREN REGARDING:

3 (1) THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION;

4 (2) THE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MARYLAND
5 CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL NETWORK;

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

8 (4) THE AVAILABILITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PRENATAL HEALTH
9 SCREENING;

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

12 (6) THE AVAILABILITY OF SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAMS.
13 8-602.

14 THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHILD CARE
15 ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SHALL:

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

18 (2) MONITOR AND REVIEW THE RESULTS FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD
19 PROGRAM AGREEMENT; AND

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

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

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

