

HOUSE BILL 52

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HB 635/03 - W&M

2004 Regular Session  
4r0954

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegate Kaiser**  
Requested: November 14, 2003  
Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2004  
Assigned to: Ways and Means

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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 2003 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  
27 childhood programs like Early Head Start, Head Start, the Judy Centers,

1 prekindergarten programs, and child care centers are less likely to be held back in  
2 school or to be placed in special education classes; and

3 WHEREAS, Maryland must take steps to obtain the goal of universal access for  
4 all children in the State who qualify for Head Start programs; and

5 WHEREAS, Maryland has a collaborative, public awareness campaign on early  
6 childhood, namely the Maryland Public Engagement Campaign, and further has a  
7 5-year action agenda for achieving school readiness, presented to the Subcabinet for  
8 Children, Youth, and Families by the Leadership in Action Program; now, therefore,

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

11 **Article - Education**

12 **SUBTITLE 6. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS.**

13 8-601.

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

- 16 (1) HEAD START PROGRAMS;
- 17 (2) JUDY CENTERS;
- 18 (3) PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS;
- 19 (4) EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS; AND
- 20 (5) CHILD CARE CENTERS.

21 (B) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS IN  
22 THE STATE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL  
23 NETWORK, MAY ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE EARLY CHILDHOOD  
24 EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS.

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

- 29 (1) THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION;
- 30 (2) THE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MARYLAND  
31 CHILD CARE RESOURCE NETWORK;
- 32 (3) THE AVAILABILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUNG  
33 CHILDREN AND CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES;

1 (4) THE AVAILABILITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PRENATAL HEALTH  
2 SCREENING;

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

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

7 THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHILD CARE  
8 ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SHALL:

9 (1) ASSIST IN DEVELOPING THE AGREEMENT UNDER § 8-601 OF THIS  
10 SUBTITLE;

11 (2) MONITOR AND REVIEW THE RESULTS FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD  
12 PROGRAM AGREEMENT; AND

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

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That for fiscal year 2006, and  
18 each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an  
19 appropriation at least equal to the fiscal 2003 appropriation for Head Start and the  
20 Judy Centers.

21 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
22 October 1, 2004.