

HOUSE BILL 52

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HB 635/03 - W&M

2004 Regular Session
4r0954

(PRE-FILED)

By: ~~Delegate Kaiser~~ Delegates Kaiser, Hixson, Bartlett, Boschert, Bozman, Cardin, Crvor, C. Davis, Elmore, Gilleland, Goodwin, Gordon, Healey, Heller, Howard, King, Marriott, McKee, Murray, Myers, Patterson, Ramirez, and Ross

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 26, 2004

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 certain
9 committees to hold a certain briefing by a certain time; requiring the Governor
10 to include certain funding in the State budget; and generally relating to early
11 childhood educational and developmental programs.

12 BY adding to
13 Article - Education
14 Section 8-601 ~~and 8-602, 8-602, and 8-603~~ to be under the new subtitle
15 "Subtitle 6. Early Childhood Educational and Developmental Programs"
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, Maryland recognizes the need to provide early education programs
20 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
8 childhood programs like Early Head Start, Head Start, the Judy Centers,
9 prekindergarten programs, and child care centers are less likely to be held back in
10 school or to be 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; 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 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 § 8-601 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 8-603.

25 NOT LATER THAN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE GOVERNOR SUBMITS THE ANNUAL
26 BUDGET TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION
27 COMMITTEE, HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS
28 AND MEANS, AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
29 SHALL HOLD A JOINT BRIEFING ON THE BUDGET OF ANY AGENCY WITHIN THE
30 GOVERNOR'S SUBCABINET ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES THAT IMPACTS
31 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS.

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

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