
By: **Delegates Marriott, Benson, Carter, Gutierrez, Hubbard, Mandel,
Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, and Patterson**

Introduced and read first time: February 23, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Department of Education - Early Learning and Child Care Programs**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to develop a certain
4 plan to accredit certain early learning programs and child care programs that
5 are planning to provide or are providing certain programs to certain children;
6 requiring the State Department of Education to submit a certain plan to the
7 Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families on or before a certain date;
8 requiring the State Department of Education to develop a certain contract for
9 certain local school systems; and generally relating to early learning and child
10 care programs and the State Department of Education.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That:

13 (a) (1) The State Department of Education shall develop a plan for the
14 accreditation of all existing early learning programs and child care programs that are
15 planning to provide or are currently providing full-time kindergarten classes or
16 publicly funded prekindergarten programs for low-income four year old children in
17 the State.

18 (2) The plan required under subsection (a) of this section shall include an
19 estimation of the cost of the plan and a timetable for implementing the plan.

20 (3) The State Department of Education shall submit the plan to the Joint
21 Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the
22 State Government Article, on or before December 31, 2005.

23 (b) The State Department of Education shall develop a model State contract
24 for local school systems to use to partner with existing early learning programs and
25 child care providers.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 July 1, 2005.