
By: **Delegates Marriott and Gutierrez**
Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2006
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Kindergarten Plus Program for "High-Poverty Schools"**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a kindergarten plus program for students at certain
4 high-poverty schools; requiring county boards of education to establish the
5 program at schools that meet certain criteria; specifying that the program may
6 encompass at least a certain period; specifying the purpose of the program;
7 requiring that students in the program be tested and evaluated at certain times;
8 requiring the State Department of Education to perform certain administrative
9 functions and services related to the program, to make a certain assessment, to
10 establish certain reporting and evaluation requirements, and to submit an
11 annual report on the program; requiring the Governor to appropriate certain
12 funds for the program; defining certain terms; and generally relating to a
13 kindergarten plus program.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article - Education
16 Section 7-101(a) and (e)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article - Education
21 Section 7-101(f)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

1

Article - Education

2 7-101.

3 (a) All individuals who are 5 years old or older and under 21 shall be admitted
4 free of charge to the public schools of this State.

5 (e) (1) By the 2007-2008 school year, each county board shall provide
6 full-day kindergarten programs for all kindergarten students in that county.

7 (2) In the comprehensive master plan that is submitted under § 5-401 of
8 this article, a county board shall identify the strategies that will be used in that
9 county to ensure that full-day kindergarten programs are provided to all
10 kindergarten students in that county by the 2007-2008 school year.

11 (F) (1) (I) IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
12 MEANINGS INDICATED.

13 (II) "ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS" HAS THE
14 MEANING STATED UNDER § 5-207(A) OF THIS ARTICLE.

15 (III) "KINDERGARTEN PLUS PROGRAM" MEANS A KINDERGARTEN
16 PROGRAM THAT EXTENDS THE KINDERGARTEN YEAR FOR UP TO 4 MONTHS FOR
17 STUDENTS ATTENDING AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.

18 (2) THERE IS A KINDERGARTEN PLUS PROGRAM.

19 (3) THE PURPOSE OF THE KINDERGARTEN PLUS PROGRAM IS TO
20 PROVIDE INCREASED TIME IN KINDERGARTEN TO STUDENTS ATTENDING
21 HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOLS IN ORDER TO NARROW THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP BETWEEN
22 DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS AND OTHER STUDENTS AND INCREASE THE COGNITIVE
23 SKILLS AND TEST SCORES FOR THOSE DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS.

24 (4) THE KINDERGARTEN PLUS PROGRAM MAY BEGIN AT LEAST 2
25 MONTHS EARLIER THAN THE REGULAR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM AT THE
26 BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR AND MAY END UP TO 2 MONTHS AFTER THE
27 CONCLUSION OF THE REGULAR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM AT THE END OF THE
28 SCHOOL YEAR.

29 (5) IN ADDITION TO THE FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM THAT A
30 COUNTY BOARD IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION
31 DURING THE REGULAR SCHOOL YEAR, A COUNTY BOARD SHALL PROVIDE A
32 KINDERGARTEN PLUS PROGRAM AT EACH SCHOOL UNDER ITS JURISDICTION IN
33 WHICH 85% OR MORE OF THE STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED
34 PRICE MEALS.

35 (6) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

1 (I) ESTABLISH APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES, AND
2 CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING FOR THE KINDERGARTEN
3 PLUS PROGRAM;

4 (II) REQUIRE THAT A COUNTY BOARD DEMONSTRATE THAT ITS
5 KINDERGARTEN PLUS PROGRAM WILL MEET THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE
6 DEPARTMENT AND EMPLOY ONLY QUALIFIED INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF AND OTHER
7 PERSONNEL;

8 (III) PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AS
9 NEEDED FOR THE INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF PARTICIPATING IN THE KINDERGARTEN
10 PLUS PROGRAM; AND

11 (IV) REQUIRE THAT A COUNTY BOARD PAY THE INSTRUCTIONAL
12 STAFF AND OTHER PERSONNEL WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE KINDERGARTEN PLUS
13 PROGRAM AT A RATE COMPARABLE TO THE PAY PROVIDED TO STAFF IN THE
14 REGULAR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM.

15 (7) A COUNTY BOARD SHALL EVALUATE THE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING
16 IN THE KINDERGARTEN PLUS PROGRAM AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM AND
17 MEASURE THEIR PROGRESS IN LITERACY, NUMERACY, AND COGNITIVE AND SOCIAL
18 SKILLS THROUGH STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS IN KINDERGARTEN AND IN FIRST
19 GRADE.

20 (8) (I) IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
21 KINDERGARTEN PLUS PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH REPORTING
22 AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH SCHOOL PARTICIPATING IN THE
23 PROGRAM.

24 (II) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, IN ACCORDANCE
25 WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
26 SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE EFFICACY OF THE
27 PROGRAM.

28 (9) (I) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE
29 DEPARTMENT IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET FOR THE KINDERGARTEN PLUS
30 PROGRAM.

31 (II) THE APPROPRIATION MAY INCLUDE GRANTS, DONATIONS, AND
32 OTHER PRIVATE FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE STATE UNDER § 2-201 OF THE STATE
33 FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM.

34 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
35 October 1, 2006.