

# SENATE BILL 759

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CF HB 419

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By: **Senators King, Forehand, Harrington, Kramer, Lenett, Madaleno, Peters, Pinsky, Rosapepe, and Stone**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2010

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program – Annual Report**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to include in a  
4 certain annual report certain information relating to the Judith P. Hoyer Early  
5 Child Care and Education Enhancement Program and the participating  
6 agencies and programs; and generally relating to reporting requirements of the  
7 State Department of Education.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Education  
10 Section 5–217  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 5–217.

17 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

18 (2) “Accreditation” means the determination that a program meets  
19 quality standards defined by the accrediting agency beyond State child care  
20 regulations.

21 (3) “Accrediting agency” means a State agency or national  
22 organization that has developed a recognized accrediting process.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (4) “Credentialing” means the process through which an individual is  
2 awarded a professional certificate based on education and experience.

3           (5) “Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Grant” means a  
4 grant that is distributed under subsection (e) of this section.

5           (6) “Full day” means a period of time during the day that:

6                   (i) Meets the needs of families; and

7                   (ii) Is not less than 7 hours or more than 12 hours per day.

8           (7) “Judy Center” means a site where comprehensive early child care  
9 and education services are provided to young children and their families for the  
10 purpose of promoting school readiness through collaboration with participating  
11 agencies and programs.

12           (8) “Judy Center Grant” means a grant that is distributed under  
13 subsection (d) of this section.

14           (9) “Local management board” means a local management board as  
15 defined under § 8–101(j) of the Human Services Article.

16           (10) “Participating agencies and programs” includes:

17                   (i) Public prekindergarten and kindergarten programs;

18                   (ii) Head Start programs;

19                   (iii) Family literacy programs and services;

20                   (iv) Local infants and toddlers programs;

21                   (v) Child care centers and family child care homes;

22                   (vi) Family support centers;

23                   (vii) Healthy family sites;

24                   (viii) Parent involvement programs;

25                   (ix) Early childhood programs affiliated with institutions of  
26 higher education; and

27                   (x) Other home visiting, community health, family support  
28 services, and child care resource and referral agencies.

1           (11) “Program” means the Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and  
2 Education Enhancement Program established under this section.

3           (b) (1) There is a Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Education  
4 Enhancement Program in the Department.

5           (2) The purpose of the Program is to promote school readiness through  
6 the development and expansion of collaborative approaches to the delivery of high  
7 quality, comprehensive, full-day early child care and education programs and family  
8 support services.

9           (c) (1) The Program shall be funded as provided in the State budget.

10           (2) Funds that are allocated to the Program in the State budget may  
11 be used:

12                   (i) To cover the costs incurred by the Department in  
13 implementing and administering the Program;

14                   (ii) For Judy Center Grants, as provided under subsection (d) of  
15 this section;

16                   (iii) For Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Grants,  
17 as provided under subsection (e) of this section; and

18                   (iv) To fund the statewide implementation of the Department’s  
19 Early Childhood Assessment System, as provided under subsection (f) of this section.

20           (d) The Department may distribute a Judy Center Grant to a county board if  
21 the county board submits an application to the Department that includes:

22           (1) A memorandum of understanding between the county board, the  
23 participating agencies and programs, and, in the discretion of the county board, the  
24 local management board that includes:

25                   (i) The terms of the collaboration to be undertaken by the  
26 county board, the participating agencies and programs, and, if applicable, the local  
27 management board, including the roles and responsibilities of each of these entities;  
28 and

29                   (ii) A plan for establishing ongoing communication between  
30 private service providers and public school early education programs; and

31           (2) Documentation that shows that:

32                   (i) The Department’s Early Childhood Assessment System will  
33 be implemented at the Center;

1 (ii) All participating agencies and programs that provide early  
2 child care and education services through the Center have voluntarily obtained  
3 accreditation or, by the date of the Grant application, have voluntarily initiated and  
4 are actively pursuing the process of obtaining accreditation; and

5 (iii) The Center will provide comprehensive, full-day early child  
6 care and education services and family support services.

7 (e) (1) The Department may distribute an Early Child Care and  
8 Education Enhancement Grant to a county board to be used to purchase early child  
9 care and education services and family support services from providers that have  
10 voluntarily obtained accreditation or have voluntarily initiated and are actively  
11 pursuing accreditation.

12 (2) The Department may distribute an Early Child Care and  
13 Education Enhancement Grant to a private provider of early child care and education  
14 services to be used:

15 (i) To assist the provider in voluntarily obtaining accreditation;  
16 or

17 (ii) For professional development activities leading to increased  
18 competency and appropriate credentialing that is related to early child care and  
19 education services.

20 (f) The Department may distribute funds to a county board for the purpose  
21 of implementing the Department's Early Childhood Assessment System in the  
22 county's public schools.

23 (g) (1) The Department shall:

24 (i) Establish application procedures for obtaining Judy Center  
25 Grants and Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Grants as provided under  
26 this section;

27 (ii) Supervise and monitor the use of Grant funds distributed  
28 under this section; and

29 (iii) Evaluate whether Grant recipients are meeting annual  
30 benchmarks established by the Department.

31 (2) For Judy Center Grants, the Department may award multiyear  
32 funding.

33 (h) A county board that is selected to receive a Judy Center Grant or an  
34 Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Grant for the purpose of purchasing  
35 early child care and education services shall:

- 1           (1)   Administer the Grant award;
- 2           (2)   Submit fiscal and program reports as required by the Department;
- 3 and
- 4           (3)   Coordinate the involvement of participating agencies and programs
- 5 in any evaluation process conducted by the Department.
- 6           (i)   Grants awarded under this section may not be used:
- 7               (1)   To supplant existing funding for any services provided by
- 8 participating agencies and programs; or
- 9               (2)   For capital improvements.
- 10          (j)   The Department shall select through a competitive bidding process and
- 11 supervise an evaluator who shall design and implement an evaluation process to
- 12 measure the effectiveness of:
- 13               (1)   The Judy Centers; and
- 14               (2)   Early child care and education services and family support services
- 15 that are purchased with funds from Early Child Care and Education Enhancement
- 16 Grants.
- 17          (k)   The Department shall submit to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of
- 18 the State Government Article, the General Assembly:
- 19               (1)   On or before January 1 of each year, a report on the
- 20 implementation of the Program **AND THE PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND**
- 21 **PROGRAMS**, including a description of the Program's **AND THE PARTICIPATING**
- 22 **AGENCIES' AND PROGRAMS'** expenditures, **ENROLLMENT, AND STATEWIDE**
- 23 **PERFORMANCE DATA, INCLUDING SCHOOL READINESS DATA DISAGGREGATED**
- 24 **BY PROGRAM AND BY JURISDICTION**; and
- 25               (2)   On or before January 1, 2004, a separate report that includes an
- 26 evaluation, based on objective performance criteria established by the Department, of
- 27 the effectiveness of:
- 28               (i)   The Judy Centers; and
- 29               (ii)   Early child care and education services and family support
- 30 services that are purchased with funds from Early Child Care and Education
- 31 Enhancement Grants.
- 32          (l)   The Department may adopt regulations as necessary to implement the
- 33 Program.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2   October 1, 2010.