

SENATE BILL 759

F5

0lr1512
CF HB 419

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

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 23, 2010

CHAPTER _____

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.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

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

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

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

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

11 (i) Meets the needs of families; and

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

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

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

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

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

22 (i) Public prekindergarten and kindergarten programs;

23 (ii) Head Start programs;

24 (iii) Family literacy programs and services;

25 (iv) Local infants and toddlers programs;

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

27 (vi) Family support centers;

28 (vii) Healthy family sites;

29 (viii) Parent involvement programs;

1 (ix) Early childhood programs affiliated with institutions of
2 higher education; and

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

5 (11) "Program" means the Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and
6 Education Enhancement Program established under this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (1) A memorandum of understanding between the county board, the
27 participating agencies and programs, and, in the discretion of the county board, the
28 local management board that includes:

29 (i) The terms of the collaboration to be undertaken by the
30 county board, the participating agencies and programs, and, if applicable, the local
31 management board, including the roles and responsibilities of each of these entities;
32 and

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

3 (2) Documentation that shows that:

4 (i) The Department's Early Childhood Assessment System will
5 be implemented at the Center;

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

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

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

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

20 (i) To assist the provider in voluntarily obtaining accreditation;
21 or

22 (ii) For professional development activities leading to increased
23 competency and appropriate credentialing that is related to early child care and
24 education services.

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

28 (g) (1) The Department shall:

29 (i) Establish application procedures for obtaining Judy Center
30 Grants and Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Grants as provided under
31 this section;

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

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

3 (2) For Judy Center Grants, the Department may award multiyear
4 funding.

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

8 (1) Administer the Grant award;

9 (2) Submit fiscal and program reports as required by the Department;
10 and

11 (3) Coordinate the involvement of participating agencies and programs
12 in any evaluation process conducted by the Department.

13 (i) Grants awarded under this section may not be used:

14 (1) To supplant existing funding for any services provided by
15 participating agencies and programs; or

16 (2) For capital improvements.

17 (j) The Department shall select through a competitive bidding process and
18 supervise an evaluator who shall design and implement an evaluation process to
19 measure the effectiveness of:

20 (1) The Judy Centers; and

21 (2) Early child care and education services and family support services
22 that are purchased with funds from Early Child Care and Education Enhancement
23 Grants.

24 (k) The Department shall submit to the Governor and, subject to § 2–1246 of
25 the State Government Article, the General Assembly:

26 (1) On or before January 1 of each year, a report on the
27 implementation of the Program **AND THE PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND**
28 **PROGRAMS**, including a description of the Program's **AND THE PARTICIPATING**
29 **AGENCIES' AND PROGRAMS'** expenditures, **ENROLLMENT, AND STATEWIDE**
30 **PERFORMANCE DATA, INCLUDING SCHOOL READINESS DATA DISAGGREGATED**
31 **BY PROGRAM AND BY JURISDICTION**; and

1 (2) On or before January 1, 2004, a separate report that includes an
2 evaluation, based on objective performance criteria established by the Department, of
3 the effectiveness of:

4 (i) The Judy Centers; and

5 (ii) Early child care and education services and family support
6 services that are purchased with funds from Early Child Care and Education
7 Enhancement Grants.

8 (l) The Department may adopt regulations as necessary to implement the
9 Program.

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.