

# SENATE BILL 58

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By: **Senator Kelley**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Children in Informal Kinship Care Relationships – Payments for**  
3 **Students with Disabilities – Funding**

4 FOR the purpose of altering a certain provision relating to funding the education of  
5 certain students with disabilities in informal kinship care relationships;  
6 defining certain terms; and generally relating to education funding for students  
7 with disabilities in informal kinship care relationships.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Education  
10 Section 4–122.1  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 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 4–122.1.

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

18 (2) “Informal kinship care” means a living arrangement in which a  
19 relative of a child, who is not in the care, custody, or guardianship of the local  
20 department of social services, provides for the care and custody of the child due to a  
21 serious family hardship.

22 (3) **“LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT C (LRE-C)” MEANS A**  
23 **CHILD ENROLLED IN A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL WHO RECEIVES SPECIAL**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES IN REGULAR EDUCATION SETTINGS LESS  
2 THAN 40% OF THE SCHOOL DAY.

3 (4) “LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT F (LRE-F)” MEANS A  
4 CHILD WHO RECEIVES SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES FOR  
5 GREATER THAN 50% OF THE SCHOOL DAY IN A PUBLIC SEPARATE DAY FACILITY  
6 THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITHOUT DISABILITIES.

7 [(3)] (5) “Local current expense per student” means all expenditures  
8 made by a county from county appropriations, except State, federal, and other aid, for  
9 public elementary and secondary education in the prior fiscal year, divided by the  
10 full-time equivalent enrollment, as defined in § 5-202(a) of this article.

11 [(4)] (6) “Receiving agency” means the local education agency for the  
12 county where the relative of a child in an informal kinship care relationship resides.

13 [(5)] (7) “Relative” means an adult related to the child by blood or  
14 marriage within the fifth degree of consanguinity.

15 [(6)] (8) “Sending agency” means the local education agency for a  
16 county where the parent or legal guardian of a child in an informal kinship care  
17 relationship resides, subject to the following conditions:

18 (i) If the parents or legal guardians of the child live apart, the  
19 sending agency is the local education agency in the county where the parent or legal  
20 guardian who has been awarded custody of the child resides;

21 (ii) If custody has not been awarded to a parent or legal  
22 guardian, the sending agency is the local education agency of the county where the  
23 parent or legal guardian with whom the child lives when not in an informal kinship  
24 care relationship resides;

25 (iii) If custody has been awarded to both parents or legal  
26 guardians, and the parents or legal guardians reside in different counties, the local  
27 education agencies of both counties shall be considered a sending agency and shall pay  
28 one-half the amount as computed in accordance with subsection (d) of this section,  
29 except that if a child receives a public education in a county where a parent resides,  
30 this subparagraph shall not apply; and

31 (iv) If custody has been awarded to both parents or legal  
32 guardians, and one parent resides in a county and the other resides out of state, the  
33 local education agency of the county shall be considered the sending agency.

34 [(7)] (9) “Serious family hardship” means:

35 (i) Death of a parent or legal guardian of the child;

- 1 (ii) Serious illness of a parent or legal guardian of the child;
- 2 (iii) Drug addiction of a parent or legal guardian of the child;
- 3 (iv) Incarceration of a parent or legal guardian of the child;
- 4 (v) Abandonment by a parent or legal guardian of a child; or
- 5 (vi) Assignment of a parent or legal guardian of a child to active  
6 military duty.

7 (b) Subsection (d) of this section shall apply to the education funding of a  
8 child in an informal kinship care relationship if the fiscal impact of the requirements  
9 of § 7–101(c) of this article to a county exceeds 0.1% of a county board’s total operating  
10 budget for a fiscal year.

11 (c) (1) A child in an informal kinship care relationship shall receive an  
12 appropriate education from the receiving agency.

13 (2) The receiving agency shall include a child enrolled as the result of  
14 an informal kinship care relationship in its full–time equivalent enrollment as  
15 provided by § 5–202(a) of this article.

16 (d) (1) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, and except as provided in  
17 paragraph (3) of this subsection, for each child in an informal kinship care relationship  
18 enrolled in a public school program, the sending agency shall pay the receiving agency  
19 an amount equal to the lesser of:

20 (i) The local current expense per student under the jurisdiction  
21 of the sending agency; or

22 (ii) The local current expense per student under the jurisdiction  
23 of the receiving agency.

24 (2) If the receiving agency determines that a child in an informal  
25 kinship care relationship is **[disabled and] A STUDENT WITH A DISABILITY WHO**  
26 **needs [public school Intensity IV or V Special Education Services] AN LRE–C OR**  
27 **LRE–F PLACEMENT**, the sending agency shall pay the receiving agency for each  
28 such child an amount equal to the lesser of:

29 (i) Three times the local current expense per student under the  
30 jurisdiction of the sending agency; or

31 (ii) Three times the local current expense per student under the  
32 jurisdiction of the receiving agency.

1           (3) If the receiving agency determines that a child in an informal  
2 kinship care relationship is disabled and needs a nonpublic educational program as  
3 provided by § 8–406 of this article, the sending agency shall pay for each such child the  
4 amount provided by § 8–415(d)(3) of this article.

5           (e) (1) Each receiving agency shall:

6                   (i) Notify the State Superintendent of the name of each child in  
7 an informal kinship care relationship as of December 31 of each year; and

8                   (ii) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, make a preliminary  
9 determination of the sending agency that is financially responsible for each child  
10 under subsection (d) of this section.

11           (2) The receiving agency shall send a copy of the notice required under  
12 paragraph (1) of this subsection to the sending agency by January 31, and, at the same  
13 time, shall send notice to the State Superintendent.

14           (3) The sending agency that was determined to be financially  
15 responsible under this subsection may appeal that determination to the State  
16 Superintendent within 30 days of the date on which the notice was mailed.

17           (4) The State Superintendent shall decide all appeals that are made  
18 under paragraph (3) of this subsection and make a final determination regarding the  
19 sending agency's financial responsibility for each child in an informal kinship care  
20 relationship under the jurisdiction of the receiving agency.

21           (5) By January 15 of each year, each county board shall provide the  
22 State Superintendent the data necessary to compute the local current expense per  
23 student under this section.

24           (6) If by May 15 a sending agency has failed to make the required  
25 payment to a receiving agency, the State Superintendent shall deduct from the next  
26 payment of State aid to the sending agency an amount equal to the amount owed  
27 under this section and shall pay those funds to the receiving agency.

28           (f) The State Board shall adopt regulations to implement this section.

29           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
30 July 1, 2012.