

Chapter 526

(Senate Bill 686)

AN ACT concerning

Family Investment Program – Earned Income Disregard Pilot Program

FOR the purpose of establishing an Earned Income Disregard Pilot Program within the Family Investment Program; requiring the Department of Human Resources to select a certain ~~number of counties for participation~~ type of county to participate in the Pilot Program; requiring the Department of Human Resources and certain directors of local departments of social services to select and inform participants; specifying certain eligibility requirements for participation in the program; authorizing the Department to select a rural county to participate in the Pilot Program; requiring ~~a~~ the county that participates in the Pilot Program to administer benefits under the Family Investment Program in a certain manner; altering the amount of the earned income that is disregarded for the purpose of determining the amount of assistance an individual may receive under the Pilot Program; requiring the Department to collect and report certain information to certain committees of the General Assembly by certain dates; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; defining a certain term; providing for a delayed effective date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Earned Income Disregard Pilot Program under the Family Investment Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Human Services
 Section 5–301(b) and 5–310(a)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2007 Volume and 2012 Supplement)

BY adding to
 Article – Human Services
 Section 5–310.1
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2007 Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

Article – Human Services

5–301.

(b) “FIP” means the Family Investment Program.

5–310.

(a) (1) For applicants to the FIP, the amount of assistance shall be computed by counting no more than 4 weeks of earned income in any month and disregarding 20% of that earned income.

(2) For eligible recipients who obtain unsubsidized employment, the amount of assistance shall be computed by counting no more than 4 weeks of earned income in any month and disregarding 40% of that earned income.

5–310.1.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PILOT PROGRAM” MEANS THE EARNED INCOME DISREGARD PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

(B) THERE IS AN EARNED INCOME DISREGARD PILOT PROGRAM WITHIN THE FIP.

(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT ONE COUNTY THAT HAS MORE THAN ONE DISTRICT OFFICE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM;

~~**(1) TWO OR MORE RURAL COUNTIES; AND**~~

~~**(2) ONE URBAN OR SUBURBAN COUNTY.**~~

(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SELECT ONE RURAL COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL DIRECTORS SHALL:

(I) SELECT AND ASSIGN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS TO THE PILOT PROGRAM; AND

(II) INFORM SELECTED PARTICIPANTS OF THE ASSIGNMENT.

~~**(3) (4) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM AN INDIVIDUAL:**~~

~~**(I) MAY NOT RECEIVE TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE BETWEEN MAY 1, 2014 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2014; AND**~~

(II) SHALL APPLY AND QUALIFY FOR TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2014.

(D) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, THE ~~COUNTIES~~ COUNTY PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL ADMINISTER THE FIP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

(E) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING § 5-310(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE, FOR APPLICANTS TO THE FIP WHO ARE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM, THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE SHALL BE COMPUTED BY COUNTING NO MORE THAN 4 WEEKS OF EARNED INCOME IN ANY MONTH AND DISREGARDING 20% OF THAT EARNED INCOME.

(2) NOTWITHSTANDING § 5-310(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE, FOR FIP RECIPIENTS WHO ARE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM WHO OBTAIN UNSUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT AND WORK LESS THAN 25 HOURS A WEEK, THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE SHALL BE COMPUTED BY COUNTING NO MORE THAN 4 WEEKS OF EARNED INCOME IN ANY MONTH AND DISREGARDING 40% OF THAT EARNED INCOME.

~~(2) (3)~~ ~~FOR ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS~~ NOTWITHSTANDING § 5-310(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE, FOR FIP RECIPIENTS WHO ARE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM WHO OBTAIN UNSUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT AND WORK AT LEAST 25 HOURS A WEEK, THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE SHALL BE COMPUTED BY COUNTING NO MORE THAN 4 WEEKS OF EARNED INCOME IN ANY MONTH AND DISREGARDING:

(I) 100% OF THAT EARNED INCOME FOR THE FIRST 3 MONTHS OF EMPLOYMENT;

(II) 60% OF THAT EARNED INCOME FOR EMPLOYMENT EXCEEDING 3 MONTHS, BUT LESS THAN 10 MONTHS; AND

(III) 40% OF THAT EARNED INCOME FOR EMPLOYMENT EXCEEDING 9 MONTHS.

(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) COLLECT INFORMATION NECESSARY TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM, INCLUDING:

(I) THE NUMBER OF CLIENTS RECEIVING FIP BENEFITS AFTER RECEIVING BENEFITS UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM;

(II) THE NUMBER OF CLIENTS WORKING FOR AN EMPLOYER COVERED BY MARYLAND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE; AND

(III) WHETHER THE CLIENTS MADE PROGRESS IN THEIR QUARTERLY EARNINGS; AND

(2) (I) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, ~~2015~~ 2016, SUBMIT AN INTERIM REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON WELFARE REFORM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE; AND

(II) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, ~~2016~~ 2017, SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON WELFARE REFORM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(G) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT ANY REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, ~~2013~~ 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of September 30, ~~2016~~ 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2013.