

# HOUSE BILL 297

F1, O4

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CF SB 332

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By: **The Speaker (By Request – Administration) and Delegates Rosenberg, Hixson, Kaiser, Barkley, Busch, Guzzone, Hammen, Howard, Hucker, Lafferty, Luedtke, Nathan–Pulliam, Olszewski, Pena–Melnyk, Pendergrass, Reznik, Swain, Tarrant, V. Turner, and A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2014

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding prekindergarten services to certain 4–year–old  
4 children; altering the name of the Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and  
5 Childhood Education Enhancement Program; changing the name of a certain  
6 grant; establishing a Preschool Services Grant; authorizing the Department of  
7 Education to distribute a certain grant to be used for a certain purpose;  
8 requiring certain providers to obtain accreditation by a certain date; requiring  
9 the Department to establish certain procedures for certain grants; requiring  
10 certain recipients of certain grants to perform certain duties; requiring the  
11 Department to conduct a certain evaluation; requiring a certain report by a  
12 certain date; establishing the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program;  
13 identifying the purpose of the Program; requiring the Department to administer  
14 the Program; requiring the Program to be a competitive grant program for  
15 certain providers; requiring the Department to take measures to achieve  
16 geographic diversity among certain vendors; establishing certain criteria for  
17 priority consideration to participate in the Program; establishing certain uses  
18 for grant funds; authorizing the Department to establish certain policies and  
19 procedures and additional eligibility criteria for certain purposes; requiring  
20 funds for the Program to be as provided in a certain budget; requiring certain  
21 vendors to certify certain information prior to receiving a certain grant;  
22 authorizing the Governor to provide funds for certain purposes; requiring a  
23 certain funding level to be maintained if funds are provided in the budget;  
24 prohibiting certain uses of funds; requiring the Department to perform certain  
25 functions; establishing the Prekindergarten Expansion Fund as a special,  
26 nonlapsing fund; specifying the purpose of the Fund; requiring the Department  
27 to administer the Fund; requiring the State Treasurer to hold the Fund and the  
28 Comptroller to account for the Fund; specifying the contents of the Fund;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 specifying the purpose for which the Fund may be used; providing for the  
2 investment of money in and expenditures from the Fund; requiring the  
3 Department to make a certain report to the General Assembly on or before a  
4 certain date annually; exempting a certain fund from a certain provision of law;  
5 defining certain terms; requiring a certain study to include certain information  
6 and certain findings; requiring a certain study and a certain plan to be  
7 submitted by a certain date; and generally relating to the Prekindergarten  
8 Expansion Grant Program.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Education  
11 Section 5–217  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
15 Article – Education  
16 Section 7–101.1  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

19 BY adding to  
20 Article – Education  
21 Section 7–101.2  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
25 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
26 Section 6–226(a)(1) and (2)(i)  
27 Annotated Code of Maryland  
28 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

29 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
30 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
31 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)76. and 77.  
32 Annotated Code of Maryland  
33 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

34 BY adding to  
35 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
36 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)78.  
37 Annotated Code of Maryland  
38 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

5–217.

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

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

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

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

(5) “Early [Child Care and] **CHILDHOOD** Education Enhancement Grant” means a grant that is distributed under subsection [(e)] **(E–1)** of this section.

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

(i) Meets the needs of families; and

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

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

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

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

(10) “Participating agencies and programs” includes:

(i) Public prekindergarten and kindergarten programs;

(ii) Head Start programs;

(iii) Family literacy programs and services;

(iv) Local infants and toddlers programs;

- 1 (v) Child care centers and family child care homes;
- 2 (vi) Family support centers;
- 3 (vii) Healthy family sites;
- 4 (viii) Parent involvement programs;
- 5 (ix) Early childhood programs affiliated with institutions of  
6 higher education; and
- 7 (x) Other home visiting, community health, family support  
8 services, and child care resource and referral agencies.

9 **(11) “PRESCHOOL SERVICES GRANT” MEANS A GRANT THAT IS**  
10 **DISTRIBUTED UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.**

11 ~~[(11)]~~ **(12)** “Program” means the Judith P. Hoyer Early [Child Care  
12 and] **CHILDHOOD** Education Enhancement Program established under this section.

13 (b) (1) There is a Judith P. Hoyer Early [Child Care and] **CHILDHOOD**  
14 Education Enhancement Program in the Department.

15 (2) The purpose of the Program is to promote school readiness through  
16 the development and expansion of collaborative approaches to the delivery of high  
17 quality, comprehensive, full-day early [child care and] **CHILDHOOD** education  
18 programs and family support services.

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

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

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

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

26 **(III) FOR PRESCHOOL SERVICES GRANTS, AS PROVIDED**  
27 **UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION;**

28 ~~[(iii)]~~ **(IV)** For Early [Child Care and] **CHILDHOOD** Education  
29 Enhancement Grants, as provided under subsection ~~[(e)]~~ **(E-1)** of this section; and

1                    [(iv)] (v) To fund the statewide implementation of the  
2 Department's Early Childhood Assessment System, as provided under subsection (f) of  
3 this section.

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

6                    (1) A memorandum of understanding between the county board, the  
7 participating agencies and programs, and, in the discretion of the county board, the  
8 local management board that includes:

9                            (i) The terms of the collaboration to be undertaken by the  
10 county board, the participating agencies and programs, and, if applicable, the local  
11 management board, including the roles and responsibilities of each of these entities;  
12 and

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

15                    (2) Documentation that shows that:

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

18                            (ii) All participating agencies and programs that provide early  
19 [child care and] **CHILDHOOD** education services through the Center have voluntarily  
20 obtained accreditation or, by the date of the Grant application, have voluntarily  
21 initiated and are actively pursuing the process of obtaining accreditation; and

22                            (iii) The Center will provide comprehensive, full-day early [child  
23 care and] **CHILDHOOD** education services and family support services.

24            (e) (1) The Department may distribute [an Early Child Care and  
25 Education Enhancement] **A PRESCHOOL SERVICES** Grant [to a county board] to be  
26 used to [purchase early child care and education services and family support services  
27 from providers] **PROVIDE PREKINDERGARTEN SERVICES FOR 4-YEAR-OLD**  
28 **CHILDREN WHOSE BIRTHDAYS FALL ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 OF THE**  
29 **SCHOOL YEAR DURING WHICH SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED AND WHOSE**  
30 **FAMILY INCOME IS BELOW A LEVEL SET BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

31                    (2) **PRIVATE PROVIDERS** that have voluntarily obtained  
32 accreditation or have voluntarily initiated and are actively pursuing accreditation **BY**  
33 **THE DATE OF THE GRANT APPLICATION MUST OBTAIN ACCREDITATION BEFORE**  
34 **RECEIVING A GRANT AWARD.**

1            **[(2)] (E-1)** The Department may distribute an Early [Child Care and]  
2 **CHILDHOOD** Education Enhancement Grant to a private provider of early [child care  
3 and] **CHILDHOOD** education services to be used:

4                    **[(i)] (1)** To assist the provider in voluntarily obtaining  
5 accreditation; or

6                    **[(ii)] (2)** For professional development activities leading to  
7 increased competency and appropriate credentialing that is related to early [child care  
8 and] **CHILDHOOD** education services.

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

12            (g) (1) The Department shall:

13                    (i) Establish application procedures for obtaining Judy Center  
14 **GRANTS, PRESCHOOL SERVICES GRANTS,** and Early [Child Care and]  
15 **CHILDHOOD** Education Enhancement Grants as provided under this section;

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

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

20            (2) For Judy Center Grants, the Department may award multiyear  
21 funding.

22            (h) A county board that is selected to receive a Judy Center Grant or [an  
23 Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Grant for the purpose of purchasing  
24 early child care and education services] **A PRIVATE PROVIDER THAT HAS BEEN**  
25 **SELECTED FOR A PRESCHOOL SERVICES GRANT OR AN EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
26 **EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT** shall:

27                    (1) Administer the Grant award;

28                    (2) Submit fiscal and program reports as required by the Department;  
29 and

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

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

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

3 (2) For capital improvements.

4 (j) The Department shall [select through a competitive bidding process and  
5 supervise an evaluator who shall design and implement] **CONDUCT** an evaluation  
6 process to measure the effectiveness of:

7 (1) The Judy Centers; and

8 (2) Early [child care and] **CHILDHOOD** education services and family  
9 support services that are purchased with funds from **PRESCHOOL SERVICES**  
10 **GRANTS AND** Early [Child Care and] **CHILDHOOD** Education Enhancement Grants.

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

13 (1) On or before November 1 of each year, a report on the  
14 implementation of the Program and the participating agencies and programs,  
15 including a description of the Program’s and the participating agencies’ and programs’  
16 expenditures, enrollment, and statewide performance data, including school readiness  
17 data disaggregated by program and by jurisdiction; and

18 (2) On or before January 1, [2004] **2016**, a separate report that  
19 includes an evaluation, based on objective performance criteria established by the  
20 Department, of the effectiveness of:

21 (i) The Judy Centers; and

22 (ii) Early [child care and] **CHILDHOOD** education services and  
23 family support services that are purchased with funds from **PRESCHOOL SERVICES**  
24 **GRANTS AND** Early [Child Care and] **CHILDHOOD** Education Enhancement Grants.

25 (l) The Department may adopt regulations as necessary to implement the  
26 Program.

27 7–101.1.

28 (a) (1) In this section the following terms have the meanings indicated.

29 (2) “Economically disadvantaged background” means a family whose  
30 income would make a child eligible for free or reduced price meals if the child were in  
31 kindergarten.

32 (3) “Eligible child” means a child:

- 1 (i) Who is from an economically disadvantaged background;
- 2 (ii) Whose parent or guardian seeks to enroll the child in a  
3 public prekindergarten program; and
- 4 (iii) Who is 4 years old on September 1 of the school year in  
5 which the parent or legal guardian seeks to enroll the child in a public  
6 prekindergarten program.

7 (4) “Eligible for free or reduced price meals” means eligible for free or  
8 reduced price meals based on eligibility requirements established by the United States  
9 Department of Agriculture.

10 (b) By the 2007–2008 school year, all eligible children shall be admitted free  
11 of charge to publicly funded prekindergarten programs established by each of the  
12 county boards.

13 (c) The requirements set forth in § 7–101(b) of this subtitle regarding the  
14 domicile of a child and the residency of the child’s parent or guardian shall apply to  
15 prekindergarten programs established by county boards as required by this section.

16 (d) In the comprehensive master plan that is submitted under § 5–401 of this  
17 article, a county board shall identify the strategies that will be used in that county to  
18 ensure that publicly funded prekindergarten programs are available to all eligible  
19 children in that county by the 2007–2008 school year.

20 **7–101.2.**

21 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE**  
22 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

23 **(2) “ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE CHILD” MEANS A CHILD:**

24 **(I) WHO IS FROM AN ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED**  
25 **BACKGROUND;**

26 **(II) WHOSE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN SEEKS TO**  
27 **ENROLL THE CHILD IN A PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM**  
28 **ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

29 **(III) WHO IS 4 YEARS OLD ON SEPTEMBER 1 OF THE SCHOOL**  
30 **YEAR IN WHICH THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN SEEKS TO ENROLL THE**  
31 **CHILD IN A PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM ESTABLISHED**  
32 **UNDER THIS SECTION.**



1           (3) “ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUND” MEANS A  
2 FAMILY WHOSE INCOME IS NO MORE THAN 300% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY  
3 GUIDELINES.

4           (4) “FUND” MEANS THE PREKINDERGARTEN EXPANSION FUND.

5           (5) “JUDY CENTER” HAS THE SAME MEANING AS PROVIDED IN §  
6 5-217 OF THIS ARTICLE.

7           (6) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE PREKINDERGARTEN EXPANSION  
8 GRANT PROGRAM.

9           (7) “QUALIFIED VENDOR” MEANS:

10           (I) IF PARTNERING WITH A COUNTY BOARD UNDER A  
11 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, A STATE ACCREDITED OR NATIONALLY  
12 ACCREDITED CHILD CARE CENTER OR A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL APPROVED BY THE  
13 DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE PREKINDERGARTEN SERVICES;

14           (II) A COUNTY BOARD THAT PROVIDES PREKINDERGARTEN  
15 SERVICES UNDER § 7-101.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

16           (III) A JUDY CENTER OR PRIVATE PROVIDER OF  
17 PRESCHOOL SERVICES THAT MEETS THE GRANT REQUIREMENTS UNDER § 5-217  
18 OF THIS ARTICLE.

19           (B) (1) THERE IS A GRANT PROGRAM KNOWN AS THE  
20 PREKINDERGARTEN EXPANSION GRANT PROGRAM IN THE STATE.

21           (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO BROADEN THE  
22 AVAILABILITY OF PREKINDERGARTEN AND SCHOOL READINESS SERVICES  
23 THROUGHOUT THE STATE FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES IN  
24 COORDINATION WITH THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

25           (I) THE PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM  
26 ESTABLISHED UNDER § 7-101.1 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND

27           (II) THE JUDITH P. HOYER EARLY CHILDHOOD  
28 EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 5-217 OF THIS  
29 SUBTITLE.

30           (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

1           **(4) (I) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE A COMPETITIVE GRANT**  
2 **PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO QUALIFIED VENDORS.**

3           **(II) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TAKE MEASURES TO ACHIEVE**  
4 **GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY AMONG PARTICIPATING QUALIFIED VENDORS.**

5           **(III) PRIORITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM**  
6 **SHALL BE GIVEN TO QUALIFIED VENDORS:**

7                   **1. THAT ARE LOCATED IN AREAS OF THE STATE**  
8 **THAT HAVE AN UNMET NEED FOR PREKINDERGARTEN OR COMPREHENSIVE**  
9 **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES;**

10                   **2. THAT INCLUDE A PLAN FOR LONG-TERM**  
11 **SUSTAINABILITY, INCLUDING COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS AND**  
12 **MATCHING FUNDS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE; AND**

13                   **3. THAT INCORPORATE PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT**  
14 **AND THE BENEFITS OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**  
15 **INTO THE VENDORS' PROGRAMS.**

16           **(IV) PREKINDERGARTEN EXPANSION GRANTS MAY BE USED**  
17 **TO EXPAND PREKINDERGARTEN SERVICES, INCLUDING:**

18                   **1. HALF-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN FOR ADDITIONAL**  
19 **ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AS DEFINED IN THIS SECTION;**

20                   **2. FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN FOR ELIGIBLE**  
21 **CHILDREN AS DEFINED IN § 7-101.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE OR ADDITIONAL**  
22 **ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AS DEFINED IN THIS SECTION; AND**

23                   **3. JUDY CENTERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF ELIGIBLE**  
24 **CHILDREN AS DEFINED IN § 7-101.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE OR ADDITIONAL**  
25 **ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AS DEFINED IN THIS SECTION WHO ARE LOCATED IN TITLE**  
26 **I SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS.**

27           **(V) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ESTABLISH:**

28                   **1. ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE**  
29 **SELECTION OF QUALIFIED VENDORS;**

1                   **2. APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESSES**  
2 **INCLUDING THE SUBMISSION DATE FOR APPLICATIONS, RENEWAL**  
3 **PROCEDURES, AND APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESSES FOR MAKING AWARDS**  
4 **UNDER THE PROGRAM; AND**

5                   **3. ANY OTHER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**  
6 **NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.**

7           **(C) BEFORE APPROVING QUALIFIED VENDORS FOR PREKINDERGARTEN**  
8 **SERVICES TO RECEIVE A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION, A QUALIFIED VENDOR**  
9 **SHALL CERTIFY TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT FOR EACH CLASSROOM FUNDED**  
10 **UNDER THIS SECTION THE VENDOR WILL:**

11                   **(1) MAINTAIN A STUDENT-TO-TEACHER RATIO OF NO MORE**  
12 **THAN 10 TO 1 WITH AN AVERAGE OF 20 CHILDREN PER CLASSROOM;**

13                   **(2) PROVIDE IN EACH CLASSROOM AT LEAST ONE TEACHER**  
14 **CERTIFIED IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION BY THE STATE AND AT LEAST ONE**  
15 **TEACHER'S AIDE WHO HAS AT LEAST A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE; AND**

16                   **(3) OPERATE AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR:**

17                           **(I) 5 DAYS PER WEEK;**

18                           **(II) 180 DAYS PER YEAR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PUBLIC**  
19 **SCHOOL CALENDAR ESTABLISHED BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD; AND**

20                           **(III) 1. FOR HALF-DAY PROGRAMS, AT LEAST 2.5 HOURS**  
21 **PER DAY; OR**

22                                   **2. FOR FULL-DAY PROGRAMS, AT LEAST 6.5 HOURS**  
23 **PER DAY.**

24           **(D) (1) FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE**  
25 **STATE BUDGET.**

26                   **(2) THE AMOUNT OF STATE FUNDS PROVIDED FOR THE**  
27 **PROGRAM EACH FISCAL YEAR SHALL BE AT LEAST AS MUCH AS WAS**  
28 **APPROPRIATED IN THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR.**

29                   **(3) THE GOVERNOR MAY PROVIDE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT**  
30 **TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.**

1           **(E) GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE USED:**

2                   **(1) TO SUPPLANT EXISTING FUNDING FOR PREKINDERGARTEN**  
3 **SERVICES; OR**

4                   **(2) FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.**

5           **(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

6                   **(1) LEVERAGE CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM FUNDS WHEN**  
7 **MAKING GRANT AWARDS TO PRIVATE PROVIDERS THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE**  
8 **CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM;**

9                   **(2) ENCOURAGE PRIVATE PROVIDERS THAT RECEIVE GRANTS TO**  
10 **PURSUE LEVEL 5 IN THE DEPARTMENT'S VOLUNTARY QUALITY RATING AND**  
11 **IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM KNOWN AS "MARYLAND EXCELS";**

12                   **(3) SUPERVISE AND MONITOR THE USE OF GRANT FUNDS**  
13 **DISTRIBUTED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

14                   **(4) EVALUATE WHETHER GRANT RECIPIENTS ARE MEETING**  
15 **ANNUAL BENCHMARKS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

16           **(G) (1) THERE IS A PREKINDERGARTEN EXPANSION FUND.**

17                   **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO THE**  
18 **PROGRAM.**

19                   **(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

20                   **(4) (I) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS**  
21 **NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT**  
22 **ARTICLE.**

23                           **(II) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND**  
24 **SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

25                   **(5) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

26                           **(I) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE**  
27 **FUND;**

28                           **(II) INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND**



1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, when the Maryland  
2 State Department of Education issues a contract to conduct a study of the adequacy of  
3 education funding in the State, as required by Chapter 288 of the Acts of the General  
4 Assembly of 2002, the study shall include providing universal access to  
5 prekindergarten services for Maryland children from families at different income  
6 levels. The study shall also examine removing funding of prekindergarten services for  
7 economically disadvantaged 4-year-old children from the compensatory education  
8 funding formula and instead incorporating prekindergarten students into the  
9 enrollment-based education funding formulas originally enacted by Chapter 288 of the  
10 Acts of the General Assembly of 2002 that may be revised based on the findings of the  
11 adequacy study.

12 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, the Maryland State  
13 Department of Education, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,  
14 and the Maryland Department of Planning shall report jointly on the estimated  
15 number of 4-year-old children and the estimated number of economically  
16 disadvantaged 4-year-old children as defined in §§ 7-101.1 and 7-101.2 of the  
17 Education Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, in each county (including  
18 Baltimore City) in Maryland for the current school year and the next 5 school years.  
19 The report shall be submitted to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the  
20 State Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate  
21 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House Ways and  
22 Means Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee by September 1, 2014.

23 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, the Maryland State  
24 Department of Education shall conduct a study on the best practices to engage parents  
25 and guardians in early education programs and services. The Department shall  
26 develop an outreach plan based on best practices identified by the study, in  
27 collaboration with existing programs for working families, that promotes the benefits  
28 of early education programs and services, particularly in communities with low  
29 participation rates in early education. The Department shall report on the study and  
30 outreach plan to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
31 Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate  
32 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House Ways and  
33 Means Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee on or before December 1,  
34 2014.

35 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
36 June 1, 2014.