

Chapter 422

(House Bill 460)

AN ACT concerning

Couples Advancing Together Pilot Program – Eligibility and Extension

FOR the purpose of altering the requirement relating to the number of counties in which the Secretary of Human Resources is required to establish the Couples Advancing Together Pilot Program; altering the provision of law relating to the number of couples to be assisted by the Program; repealing the requirement that an individual be an adult under a certain age to be eligible to participate in the Program; requiring a couple to be raising together a child under a certain age to be eligible to participate in the Program; altering the termination date of the Program; and generally relating to the Couples Advancing Together Pilot Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Human Services
Section 5–318.1(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Human Services
Section 5–318.1(b) and (e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Chapter 367 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2013
Section 3

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

Article – Human Services

5–318.1.

(a) In this section, “Program” means the Couples Advancing Together Pilot Program in the Department.

(b) (1) In cooperation with the local directors and in consultation with the Commission on Responsible Fatherhood, the Secretary shall establish a Couples Advancing Together Pilot Program.

(2) The purpose of the Program is to assist [100] couples that qualify as a family eligible for the FIP to move toward stable relationships and family friendly employment, for one or both parents of a child who resides with the family, in order to improve their economic circumstances and provide support for lasting family units.

(3) (I) The Program shall be established ~~INITIALLY~~ in [at least three counties] **ONE COUNTY**.

(II) **ON OR AFTER JULY 1, ~~2017~~ 2015, THE PROGRAM SHALL ~~BE ESTABLISHED IN TWO ADDITIONAL COUNTIES.~~**

(4) (I) ~~BEFORE JULY 1, 2017, THE PROGRAM SHALL ASSIST 100 COUPLES.~~

(II) ~~ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2017, THE PROGRAM SHALL ASSIST 150 COUPLES~~ **ASSIST 50 COUPLES.**

(e) To be eligible to participate in the Program, [an individual must be an adult under the age of 36 years] **A COUPLE MUST BE RAISING TOGETHER A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 14 YEARS.**

Chapter 367 of the Acts of 2013

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of [2] ~~7~~ **3** years and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, [2015] ~~2020~~ **2016**, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.