

HOUSE BILL 460

O1

5lr0546

By: **Delegates Rosenberg and Haynes**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2015

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Couples Advancing Together Pilot Program – Eligibility and Extension**

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

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Human Services
13 Section 5–318.1(a)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2007 Volume and 2014 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Human Services
18 Section 5–318.1(b) and (e)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2007 Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

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

26 **Article – Human Services**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 5-318.1.

2 (a) In this section, "Program" means the Couples Advancing Together Pilot
3 Program in the Department.

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

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

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

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

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

17 (II) **ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2017, THE PROGRAM SHALL ASSIST**
18 **150 COUPLES.**

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

22 **Chapter 367 of the Acts of 2013**

23 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect June
24 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of [2] **7** years and 1 month and, at the end of
25 June 30, [2015] **2020**, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
26 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

27 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect June
28 1, 2015.