

# HOUSE BILL 1095

F5, O4

6lr1430  
CF SB 369

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By: **Delegates Platt, Luedtke, Barkley, D. Barnes, Buckel, Carr, Clippinger, Cullison, Ebersole, Fennell, Fraser-Hidalgo, Hayes, Hettleman, Hornberger, C. Howard, Kaiser, Korman, Lierman, McCray, Metzgar, Moon, Morales, Patterson, Pena-Melnyk, Reilly, Reznik, S. Robinson, Shoemaker, Simonaire, Tarlau, Turner, Walker, A. Washington, M. Washington, and P. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2016

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 14, 2016

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Prekindergarten Programs – Notification of Eligibility by Local**  
3 **Departments of Social Services**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain local departments of social services and certain local  
5 health departments, under certain circumstances, to provide to certain parents or  
6 guardians a certain notice that their children may be eligible for certain publicly  
7 funded prekindergarten programs; requiring certain local departments of social  
8 services and certain local health departments to make a certain annual report on or  
9 before a certain date; and generally relating to notification of eligibility for publicly  
10 funded prekindergarten programs in the State.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Education  
13 Section 7–101.1  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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## Article – Education

2 7–101.1.

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

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

7 (3) “Eligible child” means a child:

8 (i) Who is from an economically disadvantaged background;

9 (ii) Whose parent or guardian seeks to enroll the child in a public  
10 prekindergarten program; and11 (iii) Who is 4 years old on September 1 of the school year in which the  
12 parent or legal guardian seeks to enroll the child in a public prekindergarten program.13 (4) “Eligible for free or reduced price meals” means eligible for free or  
14 reduced price meals based on eligibility requirements established by the United States  
15 Department of Agriculture.16 (b) By the 2007–2008 school year, all eligible children shall be admitted free of  
17 charge to publicly funded prekindergarten programs established by each of the county  
18 boards.19 (c) (1) **A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OR A LOCAL HEALTH  
20 DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A PARENT OR GUARDIAN WITH AN ORAL AND  
21 WRITTEN NOTICE THAT THEIR CHILD MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR ~~PUBLICALLY~~ PUBLICLY  
22 FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS IF THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN:**23 (i) **APPLIED FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES WITH THE LOCAL  
24 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OR THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT; AND**25 (ii) ~~HAS A FAMILY INCOME OF NO MORE THAN 185% OF THE  
26 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINE; AND~~27 (iii) ~~HAS A CHILD WHO WILL BE 4 YEARS OLD ON SEPTEMBER 1  
28 OF THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR.~~29 (2) **THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
30 SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE ENROLLMENT  
31 OFFICE OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM AND THE DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD  
32 DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT.**

1           ~~(2)~~ **(3)**           **ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, EACH LOCAL**  
2 **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND EACH LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHALL**  
3 **REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE**  
4 **STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE NUMBER OF PARENTS WHO WERE GIVEN A**  
5 **NOTIFICATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY ENROLLED THEIR CHILD IN A ~~PUBLICALLY~~**  
6 **PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM.**

7           **[(c)] (D)**           The requirements set forth in § 7-101(b) of this subtitle regarding the  
8 domicile of a child and the residency of the child’s parent or guardian shall apply to  
9 prekindergarten programs established by county boards as required by this section.

10           **[(d)] (E)**           In the comprehensive master plan that is submitted under § 5-401 of  
11 this article, a county board shall identify the strategies that will be used in that county to  
12 ensure that publicly funded prekindergarten programs are available to all eligible children  
13 in that county by the 2007-2008 school year.

14           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
15 1, 2016.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.