

HOUSE BILL 1095

F5, O4

6lr1430
CF SB 369

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

A BILL ENTITLED

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:

18 **Article – Education**

19 7–101.1.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

4 (3) “Eligible child” means a child:

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

6 (ii) Whose parent or guardian seeks to enroll the child in a public
7 prekindergarten program; and

8 (iii) Who is 4 years old on September 1 of the school year in which the
9 parent or legal guardian seeks to enroll the child in a public prekindergarten program.

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

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

16 **(C) (1) A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OR A LOCAL HEALTH**
17 **DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A PARENT OR GUARDIAN WITH AN ORAL AND**
18 **WRITTEN NOTICE THAT THEIR CHILD MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLICALLY FUNDED**
19 **PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS IF THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN:**

20 **(I) APPLIED FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES WITH THE LOCAL**
21 **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OR THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT;**

22 **(II) HAS A FAMILY INCOME OF NO MORE THAN 185% OF THE**
23 **FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINE; AND**

24 **(III) HAS A CHILD WHO WILL BE 4 YEARS OLD ON SEPTEMBER 1**
25 **OF THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR.**

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

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

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

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2016.