

HOUSE BILL 1123

F1, O4

7lr0306
CF 7lr3563

By: **Delegate Platt**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2017

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Prekindergarten – Program Applications**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain county boards of education, prekindergarten
4 program sites, and prekindergarten registration sites from limiting the number of
5 certain prekindergarten program applications accepted in 1 day; and generally
6 relating to prekindergarten programs in the State.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Education
9 Section 7–101.1
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Education**

15 7–101.1.

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

11 **(C) A COUNTY BOARD, PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM SITE, OR**
12 **PREKINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION SITE MAY NOT LIMIT THE NUMBER OF**
13 **PREKINDERGARTEN APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED IN 1 DAY.**

14 **[(c)] (D)** (1) A local department of social services or a local health department
15 shall provide a parent or guardian with an oral and written notice that their child may be
16 eligible for publicly funded prekindergarten programs if the parent or guardian:

17 (i) Applied for economic services with the local department of social
18 services or the local health department; and

19 (ii) Has a child who will be 4 years old on September 1 of the next
20 academic year.

21 (2) The notice required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include
22 contact information for the enrollment office of the local school system and the Division of
23 Early Childhood Development in the Department.

24 (3) On or before December 1 of each year, each local department of social
25 services and each local health department shall report to the General Assembly, in
26 accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on the number of parents who
27 were given a notification and subsequently enrolled their child in a publicly funded
28 prekindergarten program.

29 **[(d)] (E)** The requirements set forth in § 7–101(b) of this subtitle regarding the
30 domicile of a child and the residency of the child’s parent or guardian shall apply to
31 prekindergarten programs established by county boards as required by this section.

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

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2017.