

SENATE BILL 581

F1, O4

7lr2300
CF HB 516

By: **Senators Ferguson and King**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2017

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup to Study the Implementation of Universal Access to**
3 **Prekindergarten for 4-Year-Olds**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup to Study the Implementation of Universal
5 Access to Prekindergarten for 4-Year-Olds; providing for the composition, chair, and
6 staffing of the Workgroup; prohibiting a member of the Workgroup from receiving
7 certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;
8 requiring the Workgroup to study and make recommendations regarding certain
9 matters; requiring the Workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to a
10 certain Commission on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this
11 Act; and generally relating to the Workgroup to Study the Implementation of
12 Universal Access to Prekindergarten for 4-Year-Olds.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That:

15 (a) There is a Workgroup to Study the Implementation of Universal Access to
16 Prekindergarten for 4-Year-Olds.

17 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the composition of the
18 Workgroup shall be determined by the State Department of Education.

19 (2) The State Department of Education shall include at least the following
20 representatives in the Workgroup:

21 (i) two representatives from a jurisdiction in the State with more
22 than 100,000 students:

- 23 1. one individual who is an early education educator; and
24 2. one individual who is an elementary administrator;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) two representatives from a jurisdiction in the State with less
2 than 100,000 students:

3 1. one individual who is an early education educator; and

4 2. one individual who is an elementary administrator;

5 (iii) one representative from a Head Start program;

6 (iv) one representative from a private prekindergarten provider;

7 (v) one representative from the Maryland Parent Teacher
8 Association; and

9 (vi) one representative from the Maryland Family Network.

10 (c) The State Department of Education shall designate a chair of the Workgroup.

11 (d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

12 (e) A member of the Workgroup:

13 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

14 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
15 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

16 (f) The Workgroup shall:

17 (1) estimate the number and proportion of eligible children who are 4 years
18 old currently being served by publicly funded prekindergarten programs using the free and
19 reduced-price meal eligibility data for kindergarten through second grade as a proxy; and

20 (2) make recommendations regarding an implementation plan to make
21 quality, full-day prekindergarten universally available to children who are 4 years old,
22 including:

23 (i) a mixed delivery system of public and private providers meeting
24 the high quality requirement;

25 (ii) a sliding income scale for family contribution;

26 (iii) capacity of existing high quality providers and credentialed staff;

27 (iv) a plan to increase capacity of high quality providers and staff;

1 (v) the impact on school space;

2 (vi) the impact by jurisdiction;

3 (vii) the potential for school systems to partner with private providers
4 or Head Start centers to increase capacity; and

5 (viii) any options to merge various funding streams for
6 prekindergarten to provide a seamless and diverse experience for families.

7 (g) On or before September 1, 2017, the Workgroup shall report its findings and
8 recommendations to the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
10 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2018, with
11 no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no
12 further force and effect.