

SENATE BILL 581

F1, O4

EMERGENCY BILL

7lr2300
CF HB 516

By: **Senators Ferguson and King**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2017

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2017

CHAPTER _____

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; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the
12 Workgroup to Study the Implementation of Universal Access to Prekindergarten for
13 4-Year-Olds.

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

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

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

20 (2) The State Department of Education shall include in the Workgroup:

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.



- 1 (i) one member of the Senate of Maryland, selected by the President
 2 of the Senate;
- 3 (ii) one member of the House of Delegates, selected by the Speaker
 4 of the House; and
- 5 (iii) at least the following representatives ~~in the Workgroup:~~
- 6 ~~(i)~~ 1. two representatives from a jurisdiction in the State with
 7 more than 100,000 students:
- 8 ~~1. A.~~ 1. A. one individual who is an early education educator; and
- 9 ~~2. B.~~ 2. B. one individual who is an elementary administrator;
- 10 ~~(ii)~~ 2. two representatives from a jurisdiction in the State with
 11 less than 100,000 students:
- 12 ~~1. A.~~ 1. A. one individual who is an early education educator; and
- 13 ~~2. B.~~ 2. B. one individual who is an elementary administrator;
- 14 ~~(iii)~~ 3. one representative from a Head Start program;
- 15 ~~(iv)~~ 4. one representative from a private prekindergarten
 16 provider;
- 17 ~~(v)~~ 5. one representative from the Maryland Parent Teacher
 18 Association; ~~and~~
- 19 ~~(vi)~~ 6. one representative from ~~the Maryland Family Network~~ an
 20 early childhood advocacy organization; and
- 21 7. one representative from an organization that advocates for
 22 children with special needs.

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

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

25 (e) A member of the Workgroup:

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

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

1 (f) The Workgroup shall:

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

5 (2) make recommendations regarding an implementation plan based on
6 Augenblick, Palaich and Associates' January 2016 "A Comprehensive Analysis of
7 Prekindergarten in Maryland" report submitted in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts
8 of the General Assembly of 2014 to make quality, full-day prekindergarten universally
9 available to children who are 4 years old, including:

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

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

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

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

15 (v) the impact on school space;

16 (vi) the impact by jurisdiction;

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

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

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

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act ~~shall take effect June~~
24 ~~1, 2017~~ is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
25 health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the
26 members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect
27 from the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of
28 ~~May 31, 2018,~~ from the date it is enacted and, at the end of the 1-year period, with no
29 further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no
30 further force and effect.