

HOUSE BILL 513

F5

2lr0617

By: **Delegates Ebersole, Feldmark, Hill, Solomon, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
4 Consultation Program within the State Department of Education’s Division of Early
5 Childhood Development to promote positive mental and behavioral health practices
6 for young children by providing certain referrals and services for children, families,
7 teachers, and caregivers; and generally relating to the Infant and Early Childhood
8 Mental Health Consultation Program.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Education

11 Section 9.5–115

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Education**

17 **9.5–115.**

18 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
19 INDICATED.

20 (2) “COMMUNITY RESOURCES” INCLUDES:

21 (I) JUDY CENTERS;

22 (II) PATTY CENTERS;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (III) HEAD START CENTERS;

2 (IV) MARYLAND INFANT AND TODDLERS PROGRAM PROVIDERS;
3 AND

4 (V) OTHER COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS THAT SERVE
5 CHILDREN FACING DEVELOPMENTAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, OR BEHAVIORAL
6 HEALTH ISSUES.

7 (3) "DIVISION" MEANS THE DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
8 DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT.

9 (4) "INITIALLY ELIGIBLE CHILD" MEANS A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF
10 6 YEARS WHO IS ENROLLED IN:

11 (I) A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME OR LARGE FAMILY CHILD
12 CARE HOME, REGISTERED UNDER SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS TITLE;

13 (II) A CHILD CARE CENTER THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
14 SUBTITLE 4 OF THIS TITLE, IS LICENSED, HAS A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FROM
15 THE DEPARTMENT, OR HAS BEEN ISSUED A LETTER OF COMPLIANCE; OR

16 (III) A PUBLICLY FUNDED FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN
17 PROGRAM UNDER TITLE 7, SUBTITLE 1A OF THIS ARTICLE.

18 (5) "POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE CHILD" MEANS A CHILD WHO IS AT
19 LEAST 6 YEARS OLD AND IS ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTEN, FIRST GRADE, OR
20 SECOND GRADE.

21 (6) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD
22 MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION PROGRAM.

23 (B) THERE IS AN INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH
24 CONSULTATION PROGRAM IN THE DIVISION.

25 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROMOTE POSITIVE MENTAL
26 AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRACTICES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN.

27 (D) (1) THE DIVISION SHALL IDENTIFY INITIALLY ELIGIBLE CHILDREN
28 WHO MAY SUFFER FROM DEVELOPMENTAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, OR BEHAVIORAL
29 ISSUES FOR ENROLLMENT IN THE PROGRAM.

1 **(2) THE PROGRAM SHALL AID CHILDREN ENROLLED IN ACCORDANCE**
2 **WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION BY:**

3 **(I) REFERRING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED OF**
4 **INTENSIVE MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES TO APPROPRIATE CLINICS**
5 **OR PROGRAMS;**

6 **(II) TRAINING, COACHING, AND MENTORING TEACHERS AND**
7 **CAREGIVERS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS;**

8 **(III) BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY RESOURCES;**
9 **AND**

10 **(IV) WORKING TO ENSURE CHILDREN HAVE STABLE, QUALITY**
11 **CHILD CARE PROGRAMS.**

12 **(E) IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM, THE DIVISION MAY DESIGNATE**
13 **SPECIFIC REGIONS IN THE STATE AND CREATE UNIQUE APPROACHES IN EACH**
14 **DESIGNATED REGION.**

15 **(F) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**
16 **GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF**
17 **\$6,000,000 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM.**

18 **(G) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL UTILIZE ADDITIONAL AVAILABLE FUNDING**
19 **TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM.**

20 **(H) (1) IF THE DIVISION IS ABLE TO SERVE ALL INITIALLY ELIGIBLE**
21 **CHILDREN AND HAS FUNDS REMAINING FOR THE PROGRAM, THE DIVISION SHALL**
22 **IDENTIFY POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE CHILDREN WHO MAY SUFFER FROM**
23 **DEVELOPMENTAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, OR BEHAVIORAL ISSUES FOR ENROLLMENT**
24 **IN THE PROGRAM.**

25 **(2) THE PROGRAM SHALL AID CHILDREN ENROLLED IN ACCORDANCE**
26 **WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION BY:**

27 **(I) REFERRING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED OF**
28 **INTENSIVE MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES TO APPROPRIATE CLINICS**
29 **OR PROGRAMS;**

30 **(II) TRAINING, COACHING, AND MENTORING TEACHERS AND**
31 **CAREGIVERS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS; AND**

