

# SENATE BILL 881

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By: **Senator M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2023

Assigned to: Rules

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Care Providers and Employees – Bonuses – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the amount of certain bonuses for child care providers and  
4 employees; extending the termination date of certain bonuses; and generally relating  
5 to bonuses for child care providers and employees.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Chapter 594 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2022  
8 Section 1 and 2

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

11 **Chapter 594 of the Acts of 2022**

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

14 (a) (1) **[For fiscal year 2023] FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2024 AND 2025,**  
15 the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of **[\$16,000,000]**  
16 **\$6,000,000** to the State Department of Education to carry out this section.

17 (2) The Department may use any other funds, including federal funding, in  
18 addition to the funds provided under paragraph (1) of this subsection to award a bonus  
19 under this section.

20 **[(b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Department shall use**  
21 **\$10,000,000 of the funds received under subsection (a)(1) of this section to award a \$1,000**  
22 **retention bonus to each individual who:**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) is employed by a child care provider on June 30, 2022;
- 2 (ii) is employed by the provider for at least 20 hours per week; and
- 3 (iii) 1. On June 30, 2022, holds a credential through the  
4 Maryland Child Care Credential Program established under § 9.5–904 of the Education  
5 Article; or
- 6 2. earns a credential through the Maryland Child Care  
7 Credential Program during fiscal year 2023.

8 (2) The Department shall distribute an award under paragraph (1) of this  
9 subsection to an individual after receiving proof that the individual is employed for at least  
10 20 hours a week as a child care provider, or by a child care provider, that participates in  
11 the Child Care Scholarship Program in the State.]

12 [(c)] (B) (1) The Department shall use \$4,000,000 of the funds received under  
13 subsection (a)(1) of this section to award up to ~~[\$1,000]~~ **\$1,500** as a new hire bonus in  
14 accordance with this subsection.

15 (2) A bonus of \$500 shall be awarded to each individual who:

16 (i) during fiscal year ~~[2023]~~ **2024 OR 2025**, begins employment in  
17 the State as a child care provider, or with a child care provider that participates in the  
18 Child Care Scholarship Program in the State;

19 (ii) is employed with the provider for at least 20 hours per week;

20 (iii) remains employed as a child care provider for 3 months; and

21 (iv) commits to remaining employed with that provider for at least 6  
22 months.

23 (3) Each individual who receives an award under paragraph (2) of this  
24 subsection is eligible for an additional \$500 bonus if the individual:

25 (i) earns a credential through the Maryland Child Care Credential  
26 Program during fiscal year ~~[2023]~~ **2024 OR 2025**; and

27 (ii) continues to be employed as or by a child care provider for at least  
28 20 hours a week.

29 (4) The Department shall distribute the first award of \$500 under this  
30 subsection to an individual after receiving proof that the individual:

1 (i) has been employed at least 20 hours a week for 3 months as a  
2 child care provider, or by a child care provider, that participates in the Child Care  
3 Scholarship Program in the State; and

4 (ii) intends to remain employed as a child care provider, or by a child  
5 care provider, for at least 6 months.

6 (5) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the  
7 Department shall distribute the second award of \$500 under this subsection to an  
8 individual who received an award under paragraph (4) of this subsection after receiving  
9 proof that the individual:

10 1. earned a credential through the Maryland Child Care  
11 Credential Program; and

12 2. remained employed as a child care provider, or with a child  
13 care provider, that participates in the Child Care Scholarship Program for at least 20 hours  
14 a week for at least 6 months.

15 (ii) On receiving proof that an individual who received an award  
16 under paragraph (4) of this subsection had earned a credential through the Maryland Child  
17 Care Credential Program before the individual began employment, the Department shall  
18 distribute the second award of \$500 under this subsection at the same time the award was  
19 distributed under paragraph (4) of this subsection.

20 [(d)] (C) (1) The Department shall use \$2,000,000 of the funds received under  
21 subsection (a)(1) of this section to award a \$500 hiring assistance bonus to a child care  
22 provider that participates in the Child Care Scholarship Program for each employee the  
23 child care provider hires in fiscal year [2023] **2024 OR 2025** to work at least 30 hours a  
24 week for at least 3 months.

25 (2) A child care provider may use funds received under paragraph (1) of  
26 this subsection for advertising a position, licensure or certification costs, background check  
27 fees, or paying the first month of salary to a new employee.

28 [(e)] (D) (1) The Department shall establish a process for awarding bonuses  
29 under this section.

30 [(f)] [(1)] (2) The Department shall award funds under this section on a  
31 first-come, first-served basis.

32 [(2) The Department may continue to award bonuses under this section on  
33 or after July 1, 2023, with funding allocated under subsection (a)(2) of this section.]

34 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
35 1, 2022. [It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the end of

1 December 31, 2023, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall  
2 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.]

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
4 1, 2023. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 6 months and, at the end of  
5 December 31, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall  
6 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.