

**HB1441/743023/1**

BY: Ways and Means Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1441  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “**Delegate Atterbeary**” and substitute “**Delegates Atterbeary, Ebersole, Fair, Feldmark, Grossman, Henson, Mireku-North, Palakovich Carr, Patterson, Roberts, Vogel, Wells, Wilkins, Wims, Wu, and Young**”; strike beginning with “establishing” in line 4 down through “county;” in line 10; strike beginning with “requiring” in line 11 down through “program;” in line 12; in line 14, after “boards” insert “of education”; in line 15, after “board” insert “to apply for certain funding”; in line 16, after “programs;” insert “establishing an early childhood educator career ladder for eligible private prekindergarten providers; providing for the purpose and structure of the career ladder; requiring the Department to establish prekindergarten provider hubs;”; and strike in their entirety lines 24 through 28, inclusive.

On page 2, in line 7, after “(d),” insert “7-1A-01, 7-1A-03,”; in the same line, after “7-1A-07,” insert “7-1A-08,”; in the same line, strike “9.5-903, 9.5-904,” and substitute “9.5-904, 9.5-905,”; and strike in their entirety lines 11 through 15 and substitute:

“BY adding to

Article - Education

Section 7-1A-08 and 7-1A-09

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, strike in their entirety lines 19 through 33, inclusive.

On page 3, in line 3, strike “Except” and substitute “**SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND EXCEPT**”; in the same line, strike “paragraph (2)” and substitute “**PARAGRAPH (3)**”; strike beginning with “WHO” in line 10 down through “DEVELOPMENT” in line 11; and in line 22, after “(2)” insert “**EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A TEACHER IN A CLASSROOM FUNDED UNDER THIS SECTION MUST:**”

**(I) HOLD A BACHELOR’S DEGREE AND BE WORKING TOWARD A CERTIFICATION FOR TEACHING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION; OR**

**(II) MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A LEAD TEACHER UNDER THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR CAREER LADDER ESTABLISHED UNDER § 7-1A-08 OF THIS TITLE.**

**(3)**”.

On page 4, in line 8, strike “2025” and substitute “**2029**”; in line 11, strike “**2028**” and substitute “**2030**”; after line 15, insert:

“7-1A-01.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Cost of quality” means the per-pupil amount provided under § 5-229 of this article.

**(C) “EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR CAREER LADDER” MEANS THE CAREER LADDER FOR PRIVATE PROVIDER PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATORS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER § 7-1A-08 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

**[(c)] (D) “Eligible prekindergarten provider” includes an:**

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- (1) Eligible public provider; and
- (2) Eligible private provider.

**[(d)] (E)** (1) “Eligible private provider” means a community-based early learning program that:

- (i) Is licensed in the State;
- (ii) Does not charge more tuition for full-day prekindergarten than the cost of quality; and
- (iii) Meets the requirements under § 7-1A-04 of this subtitle.

(2) “Eligible private provider” includes the Ulysses Currie Head Start Program under § 5-231 of this article.

**[(e)] (F)** “Eligible public provider” means an early learning program that:

- (1) Is provided by a county board at a public school; and
- (2) Meets the requirements under § 7-1A-04 of this subtitle.

**[(f)] (G)** “Full-day prekindergarten” means an early learning program with a six and one-half hour school day.

**[(g)] (H)** “Prekindergarten program” means an early learning program at an eligible prekindergarten provider.

**(I)** “PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER HUB” MEANS A COORDINATED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDERS AND OTHER ENTITIES ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER § 7-1A-09 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

**[(h)] (J)** “Prekindergarten slot” means the available space for a child to attend a prekindergarten program.

(Over)

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**[(i)] (K)** “Tier I child” means a child:

(1) Who is 3 or 4 years old;

(2) (i) Whose family income is less than or equal to 300% of the federal poverty level; or

(ii) Who is a homeless youth; and

(3) Whose family chooses to enroll the child in full-day prekindergarten.

**[(j)] (L)** “Tier II child” means a child:

(1) Who is 4 years old;

(2) Whose family income is more than 300% but not more than 600% of the federal poverty level; and

(3) Whose family chooses to enroll the child in full-day prekindergarten.

**[(k)] (M)** “Tier III child” means a child:

(1) Who is 4 years old;

(2) Whose family income is more than 600% of the federal poverty level;  
and

(3) Whose family chooses to enroll the child in full-day prekindergarten.”;

in line 16, strike the bracket; in line 19, strike “2022–2023” and substitute “**2024–2025**”; in line 20, strike “30%” and substitute “**10%**”; in line 23, strike “5” and substitute “**10**”; and in lines 23 and 26, in each instance, strike “2026–2027” and substitute “**2028–2029**”.

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On page 5, in line 1, after “(i)” insert “1.”; in line 3, strike “(ii)” and substitute “2.”; in line 4, after “section” insert “; **AND**”

**(II) THE COUNTY BOARD DEMONSTRATES TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT IT HAS MADE A GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO FULLY EMBRACE THE MIXED DELIVERY SYSTEM, INCLUDING BY ADOPTING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-1A-05 OF THIS SUBTITLE**;

in line 7, strike “2029–2030” and substitute “2031–2032”; in line 10, strike “2026–2027” and substitute “2028–2029”; in line 12, strike the bracket; strike in their entirety lines 13 through 16, inclusive; strike beginning with “Beginning” in line 21 down through “including” in line 22 and substitute “HIGH STAFF QUALIFICATIONS, INCLUDING:”

**1. BEGINNING IN THE 2027–2028 SCHOOL YEAR, ELIGIBLE PUBLIC PROVIDER**;

in line 29, strike “and”; in line 30, strike “Teaching” and substitute “BEGINNING IN THE 2027–2028 SCHOOL YEAR, ELIGIBLE PUBLIC PROVIDER TEACHING”; and in line 31, strike “or”.

On page 6, strike beginning with the bracket in line 1 down through “SUBTITLE” in line 2 and substitute “; **OR**”

**C. ON JULY 1, 2027, DOCUMENTED EXPERIENCE OF ACTIVELY PROVIDING SERVICES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR A MINIMUM OF 15 YEARS FOR AT LEAST 20 HOURS PER WEEK AND 180 DAYS PER YEAR; AND**

(Over)

**3. BEGINNING IN THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR, ELIGIBLE PRIVATE PROVIDER EDUCATORS WHO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR CAREER LADDER**”.

On pages 8 through 11, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 28 on page 8 through line 3 on page 11, inclusive.

On page 11, in line 17, after “(1)” insert “**THE ADOPTION OF AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR CAREER LADDER BY ELIGIBLE PRIVATE PROVIDERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-1A-08 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

**(2)**”;

and in lines 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, and 28, strike “(2)”, “(3)”, “(4)”, “(5)”, “(6)”, and “(7)”, respectively, and substitute “**(3)**”, “**(4)**”, “**(5)**”, “**(6)**”, “**(7)**”, and “**(8)**”, respectively.

On page 12, in lines 1 and 4, strike “(8)” and “(9)”, respectively, and substitute “**(9)**” and “**(10)**”, respectively; in line 2, after the comma insert “**THROUGH A PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER HUB IF ONE IS ESTABLISHED IN THE AREA,**”; and strike beginning with “A” in line 20 down through the period in line 21 and substitute “**(1) A COUNTY BOARD MAY APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR ASSISTANCE ON RENOVATIONS TO PUBLIC FACILITIES LEASED AS ELIGIBLE PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.**

**(2) THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES LEASED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BUILDING OWNER AND NOT THE COUNTY BOARD.**

**7-1A-08.**

(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR CAREER LADDER FOR ELIGIBLE PRIVATE PROVIDERS.

(2) THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR CAREER LADDER IS FOR TEACHERS AND ASSISTANT TEACHERS EMPLOYED BY ELIGIBLE PRIVATE PROVIDERS.

(3) THE PURPOSE OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR CAREER LADDER IS TO:

(I) TRANSFORM EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TEACHING INTO A HIGH-STATUS PROFESSION IN THE STATE;

(II) ATTRACT HIGH-PERFORMING STUDENTS TO PURSUE THE HIGH-STATUS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TEACHING PROFESSION; AND

(III) RETAIN HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TEACHERS WHO GAIN ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, AUTHORITY, STATUS, AND COMPENSATION AS THEY GAIN ADDITIONAL EXPERTISE.

(B) THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR CAREER LADDER SHALL:

(1) ADEQUATELY COMPENSATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS FOR THEIR WORK;

(2) PROVIDE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO IDENTIFY AND WORK WITH PREKINDERGARTEN TEACHERS AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS;

(3) PROVIDE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE BY PARTICIPATING IN JOB-EMBEDDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AND

(Over)

(4) COMPENSATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS AT GREATER RATES AS THEY ADVANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF THE CAREER LADDER.

(C) (1) THE LEVELS OF THE CAREER LADDER ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(I) LEVEL ONE IS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING ASSISTANT;

(II) LEVEL TWO IS A PREKINDERGARTEN LEAD TEACHER;  
AND

(III) LEVEL THREE IS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CONSULTING TEACHER.

(2) IN ORDER TO QUALIFY AS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING ASSISTANT, AN EDUCATOR SHALL:

(I) 1. HOLD A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; AND

2. ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027:

A. EARN AND MAINTAIN A CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA) WITH A PRESCHOOL DESIGNATION; OR

B. HOLD AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OR CHILD DEVELOPMENT; OR

(II) ON JULY 1, 2024, HAVE DOCUMENTED EXPERIENCE OF ACTIVELY PROVIDING SERVICES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR A MINIMUM OF 15 YEARS FOR AT LEAST:

A. 20 HOURS PER WEEK; AND

B. 180 DAYS PER YEAR.



**(3) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, IN ORDER TO QUALIFY AS A PREKINDERGARTEN LEAD TEACHER, AN EDUCATOR SHALL:**

**1. HOLD AT LEAST A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, CHILD DEVELOPMENT, OR A RELATED FIELD FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITED BY AN INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;**

**2. A. HOLD AT LEAST A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, CHILD DEVELOPMENT, OR A RELATED FIELD FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ANOTHER COUNTRY; AND**

**B. HAVE THAT DEGREE VERIFIED AS COMPARABLE TO A BACHELOR'S DEGREE GRANTED BY AN ACCREDITED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES BY AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY AUTHORIZED TO ANALYZE FOREIGN CREDENTIALS SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT;**

**3. HOLD A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN A FIELD UNRELATED TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITED BY AN INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION APPROVED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; OR**

**4. SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, ON JULY 1, 2024, HAVE DOCUMENTED EXPERIENCE OF ACTIVELY PROVIDING SERVICES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR A MINIMUM OF 10 YEARS FOR AT LEAST:**

**A. 20 HOURS PER WEEK; AND**

**B. 180 DAYS PER YEAR.**

(Over)

(II) IN ORDER TO QUALIFY AS A PREKINDERGARTEN LEAD TEACHER THROUGH ANY PATHWAY OTHER THAN THE PATHWAY DESCRIBED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I)1 OF THIS PARAGRAPH, AN EDUCATOR MUST ACHIEVE A MINIMUM SCORE ON THE CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT SCORING SYSTEM (CLASS) ASSESSMENT AS SET BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS LISTED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(III) 1. ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2030, A PREKINDERGARTEN LEAD TEACHER WHO QUALIFIES THROUGH THE PATHWAY DESCRIBED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I)4 OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL EARN AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

2. TEACHERS FROM LEVEL THREE OF THE CAREER LADDER SHALL MENTOR AND PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT TO A PREKINDERGARTEN LEAD TEACHER DESCRIBED UNDER THIS SUBPARAGRAPH TO ENSURE THAT THE TEACHER EARNS A DEGREE WITHIN THE REQUIRED AMOUNT OF TIME.

(IV) IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN STATUS AS A PREKINDERGARTEN LEAD TEACHER, EACH YEAR A LEAD TEACHER SHALL COMPLETE AT LEAST 20 WORKING HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN:

1. EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTRUCTION;

2. DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICE;

AND

3. ANY OTHER PROFESSIONAL SKILL AREAS THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES ARE VALUABLE.

(4) IN ORDER TO QUALIFY AS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CONSULTING TEACHER, AN EDUCATOR SHALL:

(I) BE A PREKINDERGARTEN LEAD TEACHER IN GOOD STANDING;

(II) BEGINNING IN THE 2027–2028 SCHOOL YEAR, HOLD EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CERTIFICATION OR BE PURSUING CERTIFICATION;

(III) BE ABLE TO LEAD OTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN AN EFFECTIVE AND DISCIPLINED WAY TO IMPROVE THE CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION OF PREKINDERGARTEN STUDENTS;

(IV) DEMONSTRATE THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO MENTOR EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSISTANT TEACHERS AND NEW PREKINDERGARTEN LEAD TEACHERS, INCLUDING BY HELPING THEM TO MEET THE EDUCATIONAL AND CERTIFICATION QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY TO QUALIFY FOR AND MAINTAIN STATUS ON THE CAREER LADDER; AND

(V) SUPERVISE AND SUPPORT PREKINDERGARTEN LEAD TEACHERS, IF PRACTICABLE THROUGH PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER HUBS, IN ONE OR MORE SITES IN ORDER TO IMPROVE DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES FOR PREKINDERGARTEN STUDENTS.”;

and in line 23, after “(A)” insert “(1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER HUBS IN CENTRALIZED AND DIVERSE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.”

(2) PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER HUBS SHALL BE DESIGNED TO HELP BRING AS MANY PEOPLE INTO THE STATE’S MIXED PREKINDERGARTEN DELIVERY SYSTEM AS POSSIBLE.

(3) PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER HUBS SHALL FORM PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN:

(I) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS ON THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR CAREER LADDER;

(Over)

(II) CHILD CARE CENTERS LICENSED UNDER TITLE 9.5, SUBTITLE 4 OF THIS ARTICLE;

(III) FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES OR LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES REGISTERED UNDER TITLE 9.5, SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND

(IV) ANY OTHER ENTITIES THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES WILL AID IN BRINGING ELIGIBLE CHILDREN INTO THE STATE'S MIXED DELIVERY SYSTEM.

(4) PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER HUBS SHALL COORDINATE SUPPORT AMONG ENTITIES THAT SERVE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES TO ENSURE THAT THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN ARE ABLE TO BE PLACED IN A PREKINDERGARTEN SLOT.

(B)".

On page 13, after line 2, insert:

"(3) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION THROUGH PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER HUBS.";

in line 3, strike "(B)" and substitute "(C)"; after line 20, insert:

"(3) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, ORGANIZATIONS LISTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL WORK WITH PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER HUBS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT.";

in line 21, strike "(C)" and substitute "(D)"; after line 22, insert:

"[7-1A-08.] 7-1A-10.

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On or before December 1, 2021, and each December 1 thereafter, each county board shall submit the following information, disaggregated by eligible private and eligible public providers, to the Department and the Accountability and Implementation Board established under Title 5, Subtitle 4 of this article:

- (1) The number of eligible prekindergarten providers in the county;
- (2) The number of eligible prekindergarten providers in the county that, in the immediately preceding calendar year, expanded to offer prekindergarten programs that are open for pupil attendance a minimum of 6.5 hours during each school day;
- (3) The Maryland EXCELS program quality rating level of each eligible prekindergarten provider in the county;
- (4) The participation rate of all county 3- and 4-year olds in eligible prekindergarten providers established or expanded in accordance with this subtitle, disaggregated by age and tier, if applicable;
- (5) The number and proportion of eligible prekindergarten providers in the county that are eligible private providers;
- (6) A measure of school readiness in accordance with § 7-210 of this title; and
- (7) A demonstration that the expansion of prekindergarten programs in the county gave priority to:
  - (i) Children in areas with limited or no access to quality child care, regardless of family income;
  - (ii) Tier I children; and
  - (iii) Students with disabilities, regardless of family income.”;

and in line 23, strike “~~7-1A-10.~~” and substitute “7-1A-11.”.

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On pages 13 and 14, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 25 on page 13 through line 8 on page 14, inclusive.

On page 14, in line 20, strike the brackets; in the same line, strike “2026”; and after line 21, insert:

**“(3) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPROPRIATE FOR THE PROGRAM AN AMOUNT THAT IS AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED IN FISCAL YEAR 2024.**

**“(4) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2027 THROUGH 2030, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPROPRIATE FOR THE PROGRAM AN AMOUNT THAT IS AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED IN THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR.**

9.5–905.

(a) There is a Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund.

(b) The Office may award funding from the Fund to an individual who has:

(1) Obtained at least a level 2 in the Maryland Child Care Credential Program under § 9.5–904 of this subtitle;

(2) Documented at least 1 year of experience working with groups of children in an approved setting; [and]

(3) Been accepted by an accredited college or university for enrollment in at least one course for credit toward a degree in early childhood education or A related field; AND

**“(4) COMMITTED TO WORK IN AN APPROVED CHILD CARE SETTING FOR AT LEAST 20 HOURS PER WEEK FOR A PERIOD OF TIME DETERMINED BY THE OFFICE AFTER COMPLETING THE COURSE OF STUDY UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(2) OF THIS SECTION.**

**“(c) TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM, AWARDS SHALL BE PRIORITIZED TO THE FOLLOWING APPLICANTS:**

(1) AN APPLICANT WHO HAS NOT COMPLETED ANY COLLEGE COURSES FOR CREDIT FROM AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY; AND

(2) AN APPLICANT WHO ATTENDS OR HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY THAT OFFERS NATIVE LANGUAGE OR BILINGUAL COURSEWORK IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OR A RELATED FIELD.

[(c)] (D) An award under this section may only be:

(1) Applied toward the cost of:

(i) Tuition and fees; or

(ii) Textbooks required by a course in which the awardee is enrolled; and

(2) Used by the awardee for the actual expense of college coursework incurred subsequent to an award toward the completion of:

(i) A college degree in early childhood education or a related field; or

(ii) Developmental coursework required to meet prerequisites for a degree program in early childhood education or a related field.

(E) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT, AN AWARD RECIPIENT SHALL REPAY THE OFFICE THE FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE RECIPIENT DOES NOT PERFORM THE SERVICE OBLIGATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(4) OF THIS SECTION.

(2) THE OFFICE MAY WAIVE OR DEFER PAYMENT IF THE RECIPIENT PROVIDES TO THE OFFICE SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE OF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES, INCLUDING ILLNESS OR DISABILITY, THAT

(Over)

PREVENT THE RECIPIENT FROM FULFILLING THE SERVICE OBLIGATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(4) OF THIS SECTION.

(F) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2030, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPROPRIATE FOR THE FUND AN AMOUNT THAT IS AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED IN THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR.”.

On page 15, in line 3, strike the brackets; in the same line, strike “2030”; and after line 4, insert:

“(3) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2029 AND 2030, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPROPRIATE FOR THE PROGRAM AN AMOUNT THAT IS AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED IN THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR.”.