

HOUSE BILL 1254

F1

5r1293
CF SB 769

By: Delegates Palakovich Carr, Acevero, Allen, Amprey, Bartlett, Boaf, Charkoudian, Crutchfield, Cullison, Ebersole, Fair, Feldmark, Foley, Forbes, Fraser–Hidalgo, Guzzone, Harris, Healey, Hill, Holmes, D. Jones, Kaufman, Kerr, Lehman, J. Lewis, R. Lewis, J. Long, Lopez, McCaskill, Mireku–North, Pasteur, Patterson, Pena–Melnik, Queen, Rogers, Ruff, Ruth, Shetty, Simmons, Simpson, Smith, Solomon, Spiegel, Stein, Stewart, Taveras, Terrasa, Turner, Valderrama, Vogel, Wells, White Holland, Wilkins, Williams, Wims, Wolek, Woods, Woorman, Wu, and Ziegler

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Eligibility Provision Expansion Program – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Community Eligibility Provision Expansion Program
4 in the State Department of Education to provide funding to eligible schools that
5 participate in the federal community eligibility provision of the child nutrition
6 programs; and generally relating to the Community Eligibility Provision Expansion
7 Program.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 7–606

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 **7–606.**

17 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY**
18 **PROVISION EXPANSION PROGRAM.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) THERE IS A COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION EXPANSION**
2 **PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.**

3 **(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.**

4 **(D) (1) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING IN**
5 **ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS**
6 **THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDERAL COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION OF THE**
7 **CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS.**

8 **(2) THE STATE SHALL PAY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE**
9 **APPLICABLE FEDERAL PAID REIMBURSEMENT RATE AND THE FEDERAL FREE**
10 **REIMBURSEMENT RATE, AS SET ANNUALLY BY THE U.S. SECRETARY OF**
11 **AGRICULTURE UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1759A.**

12 **(3) THE FUNDING PROVIDED UNDER THE PROGRAM IS INTENDED TO**
13 **COMPLEMENT AND NOT REPLACE FEDERAL FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THE**
14 **COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION OF THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS.**

15 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

16 **(1) DEVELOP A PROCESS FOR COUNTY BOARDS TO PARTICIPATE IN**
17 **THE PROGRAM BASED ON FUNDING AVAILABILITY;**

18 **(2) ENSURE THAT PROGRAM FUNDING IS DISTRIBUTED BASED ON**
19 **THE CONCENTRATION OF POVERTY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION**
20 **OF THE COUNTY BOARD;**

21 **(3) CONSIDER GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY IN DETERMINING FUNDING**
22 **PRIORITIZATION; AND**

23 **(4) DISTRIBUTE FUNDS TO ELIGIBLE COUNTY BOARDS.**

24 **(F) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**
25 **GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$10,000,000 IN THE ANNUAL**
26 **BUDGET BILL FOR THE PROGRAM.**

27 **(G) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE STATE, EACH**
28 **COUNTY BOARD, AND PARTICIPATING NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS MAXIMIZE THE USE OF**
29 **ALL AVAILABLE FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS IN CARRYING OUT THE REQUIREMENTS**
30 **OF THE PROGRAM.**

1 **(H) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, AND EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER, THE**
2 **DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
3 **§ 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE STATUS AND OUTCOME OF**
4 **THE PROGRAM.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2025.