

HOUSE BILL 1530

F5, O4

5lr3507

By: **Delegate McCaskill**

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2025

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Publicly Funded Prekindergarten – Eligible Prekindergarten Provider Data**
3 **Dashboard**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring, beginning on a certain date, the State Department of
5 Education to maintain on its website a data dashboard with certain information
6 regarding certain eligible prekindergarten providers in the State; requiring the
7 Department to partner with a nonprofit organization that has experience in
8 maintaining a data dashboard for child care providers; requiring the Department to
9 establish a process that allows an eligible prekindergarten provider to opt out of
10 being included in the data dashboard; and generally relating to a data dashboard for
11 eligible prekindergarten providers.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Education
14 Section 7–1A–01(a) and (d) through (f)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Education
19 Section 7–1A–09
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Education**

25 7–1A–01.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

2 (d) “Eligible prekindergarten provider” includes an:

3 (1) Eligible public provider; and

4 (2) Eligible private provider.

5 (e) (1) “Eligible private provider” means a community-based early learning
6 program that:

7 (i) Is licensed in the State;

8 (ii) Does not charge more tuition for full-day prekindergarten than
9 the cost of quality; and

10 (iii) Meets the requirements under § 7–1A–04 of this subtitle.

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

13 (f) “Eligible public provider” means an early learning program that:

14 (1) Is provided by a county board at a public school; and

15 (2) Meets the requirements under § 7–1A–04 of this subtitle.

16 7–1A–09.

17 (a) (1) The Department shall establish prekindergarten provider hubs in
18 centralized and diverse locations throughout the State.

19 (2) Prekindergarten provider hubs shall be designed to help bring as many
20 providers into the State’s mixed prekindergarten delivery system as possible.

21 (3) Prekindergarten provider hubs shall form partnerships between:

22 (i) Early childhood educators on the early childhood educator career
23 ladder;

24 (ii) Child care centers licensed under Title 9.5, Subtitle 4 of this
25 article;

26 (iii) Family child care homes or large family child care homes
27 registered under Title 9.5, Subtitle 3 of this article; and

1 (iv) Any other entities that the Department determines will aid in
2 bringing eligible children into the State's mixed delivery system.

3 (4) Prekindergarten provider hubs shall coordinate support among entities
4 that serve children and their families to ensure that the maximum number of eligible
5 children are able to be placed in a prekindergarten slot.

6 (b) (1) The Department shall establish a program to aid eligible
7 prekindergarten providers in meeting the requirements of this subtitle.

8 (2) The program shall provide to eligible private providers:

9 (i) Information on professional development opportunities for
10 teachers and teaching assistants;

11 (ii) Technical support for meeting requirements to enroll in child
12 care support programs; and

13 (iii) Assistance with implementing early childhood curriculum
14 standards.

15 (3) To the extent practicable, the Department shall provide programmatic
16 support in accordance with this subsection through prekindergarten provider hubs.

17 (c) (1) The Department shall publish a list of eligible private providers in each
18 local school system on its website and distribute the list to the following entities and
19 organizations located within the areas in which the eligible private providers are located:

20 (i) A local office of economic development;

21 (ii) The Maryland Small Business Development Center;

22 (iii) A local management board;

23 (iv) A local workforce development board; and

24 (v) A local office supporting minority and women-owned businesses.

25 (2) An entity or organization listed under paragraph (1) of this subsection
26 shall, if applicable, assist a private prekindergarten provider in its jurisdiction with:

27 (i) Enrolling in business support services for which the provider
28 qualifies; and

29 (ii) Adopting a business plan to help the provider meet the
30 requirements of this subtitle.

1 (3) To the extent practicable, organizations listed under paragraph (1) of
2 this subsection shall work with prekindergarten provider hubs to provide support.

3 (d) The Department shall publicize the availability of publicly funded
4 prekindergarten programs to the public.

5 (E) (1) IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS (C) AND
6 (D) OF THIS SECTION AND SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (2) THROUGH (4) OF THIS
7 SUBSECTION, BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAINTAIN ON
8 THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA DASHBOARD THAT
9 PROVIDES INFORMATION ON ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDERS.

10 (2) THE DATA DASHBOARD SHALL BE UPDATED MONTHLY AND
11 INCLUDE INFORMATION ON ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDERS THAT IS
12 SEARCHABLE USING FILTERS FOR:

13 (I) ZIP CODES, WITH AN OPTION TO SEARCH A DISTANCE
14 RADIUS WITHIN EACH ZIP CODE;

15 (II) AGE OF THE CHILD TO BE SERVED;

16 (III) THE TYPE OF CARE, SUCH AS WHETHER THE PROVIDER IS
17 HOME- OR CENTER-BASED;

18 (IV) OPERATING HOURS, SUCH AS OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES
19 AND DAYS OF THE WEEK;

20 (V) THE MAXIMUM WEEKLY PRICE FOR FULL-TIME CARE;

21 (VI) THE MARYLAND EXCELS PROGRAM QUALITY LEVEL
22 RATING;

23 (VII) FINANCIAL AID AVAILABILITY;

24 (VIII) PROGRAM DURATION, SUCH AS WHETHER THE PROGRAM IS
25 OFFERED ON A SCHOOL-YEAR OR YEAR-ROUND BASIS;

26 (IX) PREFERRED LANGUAGE;

27 (X) SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES; AND

28 (XI) AVAILABILITY OF THE PROVIDER.

1 **(3) TO ESTABLISH THE DATA DASHBOARD UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF**
2 **THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

3 **(I) PARTNER WITH A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION IN THE STATE**
4 **THAT HAS EXPERIENCE MAINTAINING AN EXISTING DATA DASHBOARD FOR CHILD**
5 **CARE PROVIDERS THAT CONTAINS SIMILAR INFORMATION AS DESCRIBED UNDER**
6 **PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND**

7 **(II) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, INTEGRATE THE DATA**
8 **DASHBOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE EXISTING DATA DASHBOARD OF THE**
9 **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.**

10 **(4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROCESS THAT ALLOWS**
11 **AN ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER TO OPT OUT OF BEING INCLUDED IN**
12 **THE DATA DASHBOARD ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
14 1, 2025.