

Chapter 679

(House Bill 859)

AN ACT concerning

**Access to Health Insurance for Child Care Professionals – Outreach ~~and~~
Qualifying Nonprofit Satellite Organizations**

FOR the purpose of requiring the ~~State Department of Education, in collaboration with the~~ Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, to promote access to health insurance for child care professionals; ~~authorizing a child care provider that receives a certain amount of funding from a unit of State, local, or federal government to participate in the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program as a satellite organization;~~ requiring the Exchange to conduct a certain survey; and generally relating to access to health insurance and health benefits for child care professionals.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Education
 Section ~~1–101(a) and (f) and~~ 7–1A–01(a) and (i)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

~~BY adding to~~
~~Article – Education~~
~~Section 2–107~~
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
~~(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~
~~Article – State Personnel and Pensions~~
~~Section 2–501~~
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
~~(2024 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~
~~Article – State Personnel and Pensions~~
~~Section 2–512~~
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
~~(2024 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

BY adding to
Article – Insurance
Section 31–125
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

~~1-101.~~

~~(a) In this article, unless the context requires otherwise, the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

~~(f) “Department” means the State Department of Education.~~

~~2-107.~~

7-1A-01.

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

(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.

Article – Insurance

31-125.

~~THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE~~ MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE, SHALL PROMOTE ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS BY:

(1) ~~PARTNERING~~ PARTNERING WITH:

(I) ~~PREKINDERGARTEN~~ THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;

(II) PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER HUBS, AS DEFINED IN § 7-1A-01 OF THIS ARTICLE ~~THE EDUCATION ARTICLE;~~

~~(H) (III)~~ ~~CHILD~~ CHILD CARE ASSOCIATIONS; AND

~~(HH) (IV)~~ ~~RELEVANT~~ RELEVANT NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS;

(2) ~~HELPING~~ HELPING CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS OBTAIN HEALTH INSURANCE THROUGH THE MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE OR MEDICAID;

(3) ~~ASSISTING~~ ASSISTING CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS WHO LOSE MEDICAID COVERAGE WITH FINDING ALTERNATIVE HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS;

(4) ~~HELPING~~ HELPING ENSURE HEALTH PLAN OPTIONS MEET THE BUDGETS AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE NEEDS OF CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS AND CHILD CARE EMPLOYERS; ~~AND~~

(5) ~~PROVIDING~~ PROVIDING INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES ~~OR REFERRALS FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT~~, INCLUDING FLYERS, WEBINARS, IN-PERSON EVENTS, AND OTHER OUTREACH MATERIALS TARGETED TO THE CHILD CARE PROVIDER COMMUNITY; AND

(6) ASSESSING CURRENT LEVELS OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS ACROSS THE CHILD CARE COMMUNITY BY CONDUCTING A SURVEY:

(I) DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND RELEVANT NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS; AND

(II) WITH A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON PROVIDERS WHO ACCEPT CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP VOUCHERS.

~~7-1A-01.~~

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

(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.~~

~~Article State Personnel and Pensions~~

~~2-501.~~

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

(b) (1) ~~“County board” means the board of education of a county.~~

(2) ~~“County board” includes the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.~~

(c) ~~“Program” means the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program.~~

~~(d) “Satellite organization” means any organization or entity whose employees are eligible to participate in the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program as a separate account.~~

~~(e) “Wellness program” means a program that is designed to:~~

- ~~(1) promote health or prevent or detect disease or illness;~~
- ~~(2) improve clinical outcomes;~~
- ~~(3) prevent or reduce acute admissions and readmissions to health care facilities;~~
- ~~(4) improve treatment compliance for chronic conditions;~~
- ~~(5) promote healthy behaviors; or~~
- ~~(6) prevent or control injury.~~

~~2-512.~~

~~(a) In this section, “qualifying nonprofit organization” means an organization that:~~

~~(1) (i) 1. receives State funds from the Maryland Department of Health that cover more than one third of the organization’s operating expenses; OR~~

~~2. IS A CHILD CARE PROVIDER THAT RECEIVES FUNDS FROM A UNIT OF STATE, LOCAL, OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT COVER MORE THAN TWO THIRDS OF THE ORGANIZATION’S OPERATING EXPENSES; and~~

~~(ii) is:~~

~~1. described in § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and~~

~~2. exempt from income tax under § 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;~~

~~(2) is the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.;~~

~~(3) is a corporation, a limited liability company, or any other entity that is wholly owned by the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.; or~~

~~(4) is the Maryland Crime Victims’ Resource Center.~~

~~(b) The Secretary shall adopt regulations for the enrollment and participation of employees of a qualifying nonprofit organization to participate in the Program as a satellite organization.~~

~~(c) A qualifying nonprofit organization that participates in the Program as a satellite organization shall:~~

~~(1) pay to the State:~~

~~(i) a premium in the amount determined by the Secretary; and~~

~~(ii) any costs, as determined by the Secretary, for the administration of this Program; and~~

~~(2) determine the extent to which the organization will subsidize participation by its employees in the Program.~~

~~(d) The participation of a satellite organization in the Program may not impede, undermine, or conflict with the Program's federal compliance obligations or governmental and cafeteria plan status, as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 125.~~

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

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.