

Chapter 238

(House Bill 185)

AN ACT concerning

Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program – Funding – Alterations

FOR the purpose of altering the fiscal years during which the Governor is required to include in the annual budget bill a certain appropriation to the Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program; ~~repealing specific distributions to providers under the Program;~~ and generally relating to funding for the Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Education
 Section 8–420(a) through (c)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Education
 Section 8–420(d)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 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

8–420.

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

(2) “Developmental delays, physical disabilities, or delays in social, emotional, or behavioral functioning” means:

(i) A significant developmental delay or atypical development, as identified by a health professional, in:

1. Cognitive development;
2. Physical development;
3. Language and speech development;

4. Psychosocial development; or
5. Self-help skills;

(ii) Psychological trauma, as identified through an evaluation by a mental health professional; or

(iii) A diagnosed physical, developmental, or mental health condition that impacts daily living and limits participation in typical early childhood education or child care settings.

(3) “Program” means the Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program.

(b) There is a Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program in the State.

(c) (1) The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to providers that specialize in providing child care and early childhood education to children under the age of 6 years who have developmental delays, physical disabilities, or delays in social, emotional, or behavioral functioning.

(2) The Department shall administer the Program.

(3) On or before August 15 each year, the Department shall award grants under this section.

(d) (1) For each of fiscal years 2023 through 2025, AND FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2027 THROUGH 2029, AND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$3,700,000 to the Program.

~~(2) In awarding grants under the Program, the Department shall distribute:~~

~~(i) \$1,283,000 to existing providers in the same amount as was provided in fiscal year 2022;~~

~~(ii) \$1,917,000 to existing providers in the same proportion as was provided in fiscal year 2022 to provide additional services; and~~

~~(iii) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, \$500,000 to new providers or existing providers to enroll additional children.~~

~~(3) If funds are remaining after the distribution required under paragraph (2)(iii) of this subsection, then the remainder shall be distributed as provided under paragraph (2)(ii) of this subsection. FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2027 THROUGH 2029,~~

~~THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,500,000 TO THE PROGRAM.~~

(2) In awarding grants under the Program, the Department shall distribute:

(i) \$1,283,000 to existing providers in the same amount as was provided in fiscal year 2022;

(ii) \$1,917,000 to existing providers in the same proportion as was provided in fiscal year 2022 to provide additional services; and

(iii) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, \$500,000 to new providers or existing providers to enroll additional children.

(3) If funds are remaining after the distribution required under paragraph (2)(iii) of this subsection, then the remainder shall be distributed as provided under paragraph (2)(ii) of this subsection.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.