

Chapter 369

(House Bill 1121)

AN ACT concerning

Child Care Scholarship Program – Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement to Successful Adulthood ~~Pilot~~ Program – Establishment

FOR the purpose of establishing the Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement to Successful Adulthood ~~Pilot~~ Program in the Child Care Scholarship Program; and generally relating to the establishment of the Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement to Successful Adulthood ~~Pilot~~ Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Education
Section 9.5–113(a) and (b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 9.5–113(c)(1) and (d)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section 9.5–113.2
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

9.5–113.

- (a) In this section, “Program” means the Child Care Scholarship Program.
- (b) The Department shall administer the Program in accordance with federal law.
- (c) (1) The Department shall **[establish]**:

(I) ESTABLISH a process that meets the requirements of this subsection for granting presumptive eligibility for a subsidy under the Program; **AND**

(II) INCORPORATE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE YOUTH TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER PLACEMENT TO SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD ~~PILOT~~ PROGRAM AS ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9.5–113.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(d) The Department shall award a scholarship under the Program in an amount sufficient to ensure that an individual will not be required to pay a copay for child care if the individual provides proof, as determined by the Department, of:

(1) **(I)** Participation in one of the following programs:

[(i)] 1. Federal Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children;

[(ii)] 2. Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program;

[(iii)] 3. Federal Housing Act Housing Choice Voucher Program;

[(iv)] 4. Supplemental Security Income benefits; or

[(v)] 5. Temporary cash assistance; and

[(2)] (II) Employment or enrollment in an education or career training program; **OR**

(2) PARTICIPATION IN THE YOUTH TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER PLACEMENT TO SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD ~~PILOT~~ PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9.5–113.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

9.5–113.2.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “FOSTER YOUTH” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

(I) IS AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD AND UNDER THE AGE OF 22 YEARS; AND

(II) 1. IS IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE; OR

2. WAS IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S 18TH BIRTHDAY.

(3) "~~PILOT~~ PROGRAM" MEANS THE YOUTH TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER PLACEMENT TO SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD ~~PILOT~~ PROGRAM.

(B) (1) THERE IS A YOUTH TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER PLACEMENT TO SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD ~~PILOT~~ PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE ~~PILOT~~ PROGRAM IS TO ~~ASSIST A FOSTER YOUTH IN APPLYING FOR AND ACCESSING SUBSIDIES IN~~ REMOVE CERTAIN APPLICATION BARRIERS FOR PARENTING FOSTER YOUTH AND INCREASE ELIGIBILITY ACCESS TO THE CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE FOSTER YOUTH'S CHILD.

(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE ~~PILOT~~ PROGRAM.

(2) THE ~~PILOT~~ PROGRAM SHALL BEGIN ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2026, ~~AND SHALL END ON DECEMBER 31, 2028.~~

(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REMOVE BARRIERS IN THE CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESS FOR FOSTER YOUTH IN THE ~~PILOT~~ PROGRAM BY REMOVING THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

(1) PROOF OF A FOSTER YOUTH'S EMPLOYMENT OR ENROLLMENT IN AN EDUCATION OR CAREER TRAINING PROGRAM;

(2) THE NAME OF THE OTHER PARENT OF THE FOSTER YOUTH'S CHILD; ~~AND~~

(3) A WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM A PARENT IF THE PARENT IS NOT RESIDING IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD AS THE CHILD; AND

(4) APPLICATION INFORMATION, INCLUDING INCOME, THAT RELATES TO A FOSTER YOUTH'S FOSTER PARENTS RATHER THAN TO THE FOSTER YOUTH.

(E) ~~(1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRACK EXPENDITURES ON SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM ON A MONTHLY BASIS, INCLUDING:~~

~~(1) THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF FOSTER YOUTH RECEIVING SUBSIDIES UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM; AND~~

~~(H) THE AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT RECEIVED BY FOSTER YOUTH UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM.~~

~~(2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR OF THE PILOT PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, REGARDING:~~

~~(i) THE STATUS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM; AND~~

~~(ii) AN EVALUATION IN MEETING THE PILOT PROGRAM'S GOALS TO REMOVE BARRIERS FOR FOSTER YOUTH IN ACCESSING SCHOLARSHIPS~~
THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL MAKE REFERRALS TO THE DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE PROGRAM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025. ~~It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June 30, 2029, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.