

## Chapter 623

**(House Bill 561)**

AN ACT concerning

**Maryland Child Care Credential Program – Extension of Funding**

FOR the purpose of requiring, *for certain fiscal years*, the Governor to appropriate a certain amount of funding for the Maryland Child Care Credential Program ~~annually, beginning in a certain fiscal year~~; and generally relating to funding for the Maryland Child Care Credential Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 Article – Education  
 Section 9.5–904  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

**Article – Education**

9.5–904.

- (a) There is a Maryland Child Care Credential Program.
- (b) An individual may apply to the Office for a staff credential, including a child development associate credential, or an administrator credential under this subsection.
- (c) If a person pursues, obtains, or already holds an Office–approved credential, the Office may award to the individual:
  - (1) An achievement bonus;
  - (2) A training reimbursement; or
  - (3) A training voucher.
- (d) (1) The Governor shall appropriate \$4,000,000 for the program for fiscal year 2021.
  - (2) For each of fiscal years 2022 through 2024, funding for the program shall increase by 10% over the prior fiscal year.

(3) For fiscal year 2026, the Governor shall appropriate for the program an amount that is at least equal to the amount appropriated in fiscal year 2024.

~~(4) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2028 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPROPRIATE FOR THE PROGRAM AN AMOUNT THAT IS AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED IN FISCAL YEAR 2024~~ EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2028 THROUGH 2030, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPROPRIATE \$5,687,000 FOR THE PROGRAM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

**Approved by the Governor, May 26, 2026.**