

HOUSE BILL 628

O1
HB 849/24 – APP

6lr0928

By: Delegates Acevero, Addison, Alston, Bhandari, Chang, Fennell, Foley, Forbes, Griffith, Harrison, Hinebaugh, Hornberger, Ivey, S. Johnson, D. Jones, Kaiser, Martinez, Metzgar, Mireku–North, Roberson, Ruff, Shetty, Smith, Spiegel, Terrasa, Turner, Williams, Wilson, Woods, and Woorman

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 4, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Services – ~~Universal Basic Income for Transition Age Youth~~ Foster Care**
3 **Transition Grant Program – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the ~~Universal Basic Income for Transition Age Youth~~
5 Foster Care Transition Grant Program in the Department of Human Services;
6 providing that payments made under the Program may not be considered income or
7 resources for purposes of determining eligibility for certain benefits; requiring the
8 Department to report annually on the Program to the General Assembly; and
9 generally relating to the ~~Universal Basic Income for Transition Age Youth~~ Foster
10 Care Transition Grant Program.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Human Services

13 Section 5–5C–01 through 5–5C–04 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 5C.
14 ~~Universal Basic Income for Transition Age Youth~~ Foster Care Transition
15 Grant Program”

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Article – Human Services

SUBTITLE 5C. ~~UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME FOR TRANSITION AGE YOUTH~~ FOSTER CARE TRANSITION GRANT PROGRAM.

5-5C-01.

~~(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.~~

~~(B) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME FOR TRANSITION AGE YOUTH~~ FOSTER CARE TRANSITION GRANT PROGRAM.

~~(C) “UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME” MEANS UNCONDITIONAL CASH PAYMENTS OF EQUAL AMOUNTS DISTRIBUTED MONTHLY TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.~~

5-5C-02.

(A) ~~THERE IS A UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME FOR TRANSITION AGE YOUTH~~ FOSTER CARE TRANSITION GRANT PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FOR THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF INDIVIDUALS AGING OUT OF THE OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT PROGRAM.

5-5C-03.

(A) ~~AN~~ BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2028, AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A ~~UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME~~ FOSTER CARE TRANSITION GRANT OF \$1,000 PER MONTH FOR A PERIOD OF ~~3 YEARS~~ 1 YEAR IF:

(1) THE INDIVIDUAL RESIDED IN AN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT ON THE INDIVIDUAL’S 18TH BIRTHDAY, REGARDLESS OF THE AGE AT WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL ENTERED OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT; AND

(2) THE INDIVIDUAL’S 18TH BIRTHDAY IS ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2026.

(B) ~~PAYMENTS~~ GRANTS ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED INCOME OR RESOURCES FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE BENEFITS OR THE AMOUNTS OF BENEFITS RECEIVED FOR THE FOLLOWING, AS PERMITTED BY FEDERAL LAW:

- 1 (1) THE MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;
- 2 (2) THE MARYLAND EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT; OR
- 3 (3) STATE AND FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID AND COLLEGE SUPPORT
- 4 PROGRAMS.
- 5 5-5C-04.

6 ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, ~~2027~~ 2028, AND EACH OCTOBER 1 THEREAFTER,
 7 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN
 8 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THAT
 9 CONTAINS DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION AND OUTCOME MEASURES OF PROGRAM
 10 RECIPIENTS DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR, INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM:

11 (1) THE STARTING INCOME OF EACH RECIPIENT, EXCLUSIVE OF
 12 ~~UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME PAYMENTS~~ A FOSTER CARE TRANSITION GRANT;

13 (2) GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT EACH RECIPIENT, INCLUDING
 14 COUNTY, CITY, AND ZIP CODE OF RESIDENCE;

15 (3) THE EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF EACH RECIPIENT BEFORE
 16 RECEIVING ~~UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME PAYMENTS~~ A FOSTER CARE TRANSITION
 17 GRANT; AND

18 (4) THE HOUSING STATUS OF EACH RECIPIENT BEFORE RECEIVING
 19 ~~UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME PAYMENTS~~ A FOSTER CARE TRANSITION GRANT.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
 21 October 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of September
 22 30, 2031, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
 23 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.