

# HOUSE BILL 1245

F5, O4, E4

6lr1976

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By: **Delegate Edelson**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore First Responders Child Care Support and Accessibility Program –**  
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Baltimore First Responders Child Care Support and  
5 Accessibility Program within the State Department of Education’s Office of Child  
6 Care to support and expand a pilot program in Baltimore City that provides monthly  
7 child care allowances to first responders; and generally relating to the Baltimore  
8 First Responders Child Care Support and Accessibility Program.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Education

11 Section 9.5–909

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Education**

17 **9.5–909.**

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

20 (2) “FIRST RESPONDER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1–301 OF  
21 THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.

22 (3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE BALTIMORE FIRST RESPONDERS CHILD  
23 CARE SUPPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) (1) THERE IS A BALTIMORE FIRST RESPONDERS CHILD CARE**  
2 **SUPPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM.**

3           **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO SUPPORT AND EXPAND A**  
4 **PILOT PROGRAM IN BALTIMORE CITY THAT PROVIDES MONTHLY CHILD CARE**  
5 **ALLOWANCES TO FIRST RESPONDERS TO ACCESS QUALITY CHILD CARE THAT**  
6 **ALIGNS WITH THE DEMANDS OF A CAREER IN PUBLIC SAFETY.**

7           **(3) THE OFFICE SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM IN**  
8 **CONSULTATION WITH:**

9                   **(I) THE BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT;**

10                   **(II) THE BALTIMORE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING**  
11 **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL; AND**

12                   **(III) ANY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION PARTNERS.**

13           **(C) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2028 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER,**  
14 **THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION**  
15 **OF \$600,000 TO THE PROGRAM.**

16           **(2) THE FUNDS SHALL BE USED TO PROVIDE CHILD CARE**  
17 **ALLOWANCES TO FIRST RESPONDERS IN BALTIMORE CITY TO:**

18                   **(I) SUPPORT DEPENDENT CHILDREN IN EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
19 **DEVELOPMENT;**

20                   **(II) RECRUIT AND RETAIN FIRST RESPONDERS; AND**

21                   **(III) PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY.**

22           **(D) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2028, AND EACH SEPTEMBER 1**  
23 **THEREAFTER, THE OFFICE SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN**  
24 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL**  
25 **ASSEMBLY ON THE PROGRAM, ON:**

26                   **(1) THE NUMBER OF FIRST RESPONDERS WHO RECEIVED A CHILD**  
27 **CARE ALLOWANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING**  
28 **FISCAL YEAR DISAGGREGATED BY LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY THAT PROVIDES**  
29 **EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES;**

1                   **(2) THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED DURING THE IMMEDIATELY**  
2 **PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR;**

3                   **(3) IMPACTS ON FIRST RESPONDER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**  
4 **AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INCLUDING ATTENDANCE, RELIABILITY, AND WELLNESS; AND**

5                   **(4) ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION.**

6                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
7 1, 2026.