

SENATE BILL 503

O4, F5

6lr2353
CF HB 742

By: Senator King

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program – Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to include a certain appropriation in the annual
4 budget bill for the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program for certain
5 fiscal years; and generally relating to funding for the Growing Family Child Care
6 Opportunities Program.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Education

9 Section 9.5–114(a), (b), (c), and (g)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Education

14 Section 9.5–114(e)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Education**

20 9.5–114.

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

22 (2) “Child care licensing region” means any one of 13 regions designated by
23 the Department to provide licensing and oversight for family child care programs.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(3) "Family child care" means the care given to a child under the age of 13 years or to a developmentally disabled person under the age of 21 years that is in place of parental care for less than 24 hours a day, in a residence other than the child's residence, for which the family child care provider is paid.

(4) "Family child care provider" means an individual who cares for children in a registered family child care home or a registered large family child care home.

9 (6) "Program" means the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities
10 Program.

(7) "Start-up assistance" means the funding for starting a family child care program including the cost of materials, curriculum, and renovations.

13 (b) (1) There is a Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program in the
14 Department.

19 (c) (1) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, on or before
20 September 1, 2022, the Department shall award at least three grants, each of which does
21 not exceed \$150,000, in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection to establish and
22 support family child care providers in the State.

27 (ii) The county or counties and the child care resource center jointly
28 shall apply for the grant and administer the local program.

32 (2) To the extent authorized under federal law, the Governor shall use
33 federal funds to satisfy the requirement of paragraph (1) of this subsection.

34 (g) (1) The Department may seek funding to start the Program.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
4 1, 2026.