

SENATE BILL 668

01, 04

6lr2794

CF 6lr1548

By: **Senators Harris and King**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Children's Cabinet Fund – Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local**
3 **Management Boards**

4 FOR the purpose of renaming the Children's Cabinet Fund to be the Children's Cabinet
5 Interagency Fund; requiring the Governor, in certain fiscal years, to include an
6 appropriation in the annual budget bill to the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund
7 to be used for grants to local management boards; and generally relating to the
8 renaming of the Children's Cabinet Fund and funding for grants to local
9 management boards.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 8–417(b)(1)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Health – General
17 Section 15–139(c)(1)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
21 Article – Human Services
22 Section 8–501 through 8–503 to be under the amended subtitle “Subtitle 5.
23 Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund”
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

26 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
27 Article – Human Services

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Section 8-504 through 8-506 and 8-508
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

5 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7 8-417.

8 (b) (1) The Department, in collaboration with the fiscal agent of the Children's
9 Cabinet **INTERAGENCY** Fund under Title 8, Subtitle 5 of the Human Services Article, shall
10 administer and implement a redesigned rate setting process for nonpublic general
11 education schools, residential child care programs, and nonresidential child care programs.

Article – Health – General

13 15-139.

14 (c) (1) For each fiscal year, the Governor may provide funds in the budget for
15 the Children's Cabinet **INTERAGENCY** Fund established under Title 8, Subtitle 5 of the
16 Human Services Article, to be used by the Children's Cabinet to create an interagency pool
17 of funds to provide services to children with disabilities.

Article – Human Services

Subtitle 5. Children's Cabinet **INTERAGENCY** Fund.

20 8-501.

21 In this subtitle, “Fund” means the Children’s Cabinet **INTERAGENCY** Fund.

22 8-502.

23 There is a Children's Cabinet **INTERAGENCY** Fund.

24 8-503.

25 (a) The Fund:

26 (1) consists of money appropriated, transferred, credited, or paid into the
27 Fund from any source; and

(2) includes money for out-of-home care and services to prevent out-of-home placements.

3 **(C) (1) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL**
4 **THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FUND TO BE USED FOR GRANTS TO**
5 **ELIGIBLE LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS:**

6 (I) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2028, \$3,000,000 ABOVE THE
7 APPROPRIATION TO THE FUND IN FISCAL YEAR 2027:

10 (III) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2030, \$2,000,000 ABOVE THE
11 APPROPRIATION TO THE FUND IN FISCAL YEAR 2029; AND

12 (IV) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2031, \$2,000,000 ABOVE THE
13 APPROPRIATION TO THE FUND IN FISCAL YEAR 2030.

19 8-504.

20 Expenditures from the Fund shall be made:

21 (1) in accordance with the State Finance and Procurement Article; and

22 (2) to reflect the priorities, policies, and procedures that the Children's
23 Cabinet adopts.

24 8-505.

25 (a) A local management board shall apply for money from the Fund in accordance
26 with procedures established by the Children's Cabinet.

27 (b) In connection with an application for money under subsection (a) of this
28 section, a local management board shall develop and submit a community partnership
29 agreement that:

30 (1) reflects coordination with:

(i) the State's 3-year plan for children, youth, and families; and

2 (ii) any local government plan for services for children, youth, and
3 families, including the local substance abuse plan developed in accordance with Title 8,
4 Subtitle 10 of the Health – General Article; and

5 (2) addresses the priorities and strategies of the county for meeting the
6 identified needs of children and families as articulated in the local management board's
7 5-year strategic plan regarding:

8 (i) youth development;

9 (ii) prevention services;

10 (iii) crisis and early intervention;

11 (iv) services for children at risk of out-of-home placement or
12 returning from out-of-home placement; and

13 (v) out-of-home placement and treatment.

14 (c) The Children's Cabinet may disburse money to a local management board
15 subject to the terms, conditions, performance measures, or outcome evaluations that the
16 Children's Cabinet considers necessary.

17 (d) The local management board shall use the money to implement:

(1) a local interagency services delivery system for children, youth, and families in accordance with the community partnership agreement; and

20 (2) any terms, conditions, and performance measures that the Children's
21 Cabinet requires.

22 8-506.

23 (a) The State shall fund only evidence-based and promising home visiting
24 programs for improving parent and child outcomes, as provided in the State budget.

25 (b) Not less than 75% of the State funding for home visiting programs shall be
26 made available to evidence-based home visiting programs.

27 8-508.

28 The Governor's Office for Children is the fiscal agent for the Fund.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
30 1, 2026.