

HOUSE BILL 944

O4, F1, D5

11r2016
CF 11r2017

By: **Delegate Solomon**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot
4 Program in the State Department of Education; stating the purpose of the Program;
5 requiring the Department to administer the Program in partnership with a certain
6 entity; requiring the Department to award certain grants to certain recipients;
7 requiring grant recipients to use the grants for certain purposes; requiring grant
8 recipients to raise certain funding, collaborate with certain providers during a
9 certain period, provide certain services, and establish certain partnerships for
10 certain purposes; requiring the Governor, in certain fiscal years, to include in the
11 annual budget bill a certain appropriation for the Program; requiring the
12 Department to develop certain guidelines in partnership with a certain entity;
13 authorizing the Department to seek funding for the Program and to provide grants
14 as soon as possible under a certain circumstance; requiring the Department to
15 develop and publish goals for the Program each year; requiring the Department to
16 submit a certain report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date of each
17 year; defining certain terms; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
18 relating to the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program.

19 BY adding to

20 Article – Education

21 Section 9.5–113

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

25 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

26 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **9.5-113.**

2 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
3 INDICATED.

4 (2) "CHILD CARE LICENSING REGION" MEANS ANY ONE OF 13
5 REGIONS DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE LICENSING AND
6 OVERSIGHT FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS.

7 (3) "FAMILY CHILD CARE" MEANS THE CARE GIVEN TO A CHILD
8 UNDER THE AGE OF 13 YEARS OR TO A DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PERSON
9 UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS THAT IS IN PLACE OF PARENTAL CARE FOR LESS THAN
10 24 HOURS A DAY, IN A RESIDENCE OTHER THAN THE CHILD'S RESIDENCE, FOR
11 WHICH THE FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER IS PAID.

12 (4) "FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO
13 CARES FOR CHILDREN IN A REGISTERED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME OR A
14 REGISTERED LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME.

15 (5) "LOCAL PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS A LOCAL JURISDICTION OR
16 CHILD CARE LICENSING REGION THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM.

17 (6) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE GROWING FAMILY CHILD CARE
18 OPPORTUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM.

19 (7) "START-UP ASSISTANCE" MEANS THE FUNDING FOR STARTING A
20 FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAM INCLUDING THE COST OF MATERIALS, CURRICULUM,
21 AND RENOVATIONS.

22 (B) (1) THERE IS A GROWING FAMILY CHILD CARE OPPORTUNITIES
23 PILOT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

24 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO
25 ESTABLISH AND SUPPORT LOCAL PILOT PROGRAMS IN THE STATE.

26 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PARTNER WITH THE MARYLAND CHILD
27 CARE RESOURCE NETWORK TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

28 (C) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION, ON
29 OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2022, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD \$150,000
30 GRANTS TO LOCAL JURISDICTIONS OR CHILD CARE LICENSING REGIONS TO
31 ESTABLISH AND SUPPORT FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN THE STATE.

1 **(2) GRANTS SHALL BE AWARDED WITHIN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING**
2 **AREAS:**

3 **(I) URBAN;**

4 **(II) SUBURBAN; AND**

5 **(III) A CHILD CARE LICENSING REGION LOCATED IN A RURAL**
6 **AREA.**

7 **(D) GRANT RECIPIENTS SHALL:**

8 **(1) USE THE GRANTS TO:**

9 **(I) ESTABLISH AND SUPPORT A LOCAL PILOT PROGRAM; AND**

10 **(II) TARGET THE USE OF THE GRANT TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY**
11 **AND ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN AREAS**
12 **WITH ABOVE AVERAGE RATES OF POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT OR AREAS WITH A**
13 **LACK OF AVAILABLE CHILD CARE PROVIDERS;**

14 **(2) RAISE LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS, INCLUDING IN-KIND MATCHING**
15 **RESOURCES AT A 1:1 MATCH;**

16 **(3) COLLABORATE WITH EXISTING FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**
17 **DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM;**

18 **(4) PROVIDE MULTILINGUAL OUTREACH TO RECRUIT INDIVIDUALS**
19 **TO BECOME REGISTERED FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS WITH THE DEPARTMENT;**

20 **(5) PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FINANCIAL INCENTIVES, AND**
21 **START-UP ASSISTANCE FOR RECRUITED INDIVIDUALS AS THEY NAVIGATE THE**
22 **DEPARTMENT'S PROCESS TO BECOME A REGISTERED FAMILY CHILD CARE**
23 **PROVIDER;**

24 **(6) ASSIST NEWLY REGISTERED AND ESTABLISHED FAMILY CHILD**
25 **CARE PROVIDERS THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ACHIEVE QUALITY**
26 **BENCHMARKS, PEER-TO-PEER MENTORING, AND FINANCIAL INCENTIVES; AND**

27 **(7) ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL CHAMBERS OF**
28 **COMMERCE, OR OTHER LOCAL OR STATE ORGANIZATIONS FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE**
29 **PROVIDERS THAT SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES AND WOMEN AND**
30 **MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES TO PROVIDE:**

1 **(I) ASSISTANCE TO RECRUITED INDIVIDUALS OR REGISTERED**
2 **FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN IMPLEMENTING BEST BUSINESS PRACTICES;**
3 **AND**

4 **(II) ASSISTANCE IN ACHIEVING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY.**

5 **(E) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2023 AND 2024, THE GOVERNOR SHALL**
6 **INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$450,000 TO THE**
7 **PROGRAM.**

8 **(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES, IN CONSULTATION**
9 **WITH THE MARYLAND CHILD CARE RESOURCE CENTER, FOR THE GRANT**
10 **APPLICATION PROCESS AND GRANT RECIPIENTS.**

11 **(G) (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK FUNDING TO START THE PROGRAM.**

12 **(2) IF THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES FUNDING BEFORE JULY 1, 2022,**
13 **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BEGIN AWARDING GRANTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNDER**
14 **THE PROGRAM.**

15 **(H) EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLISH GOALS**
16 **FOR THE PROGRAM.**

17 **(I) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2021, AND EACH DECEMBER 1**
18 **THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN**
19 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE**
20 **STATUS OF THE PROGRAM AND AN EVALUATION OF LOCAL PILOT PROGRAMS IN**
21 **MEETING THE PROGRAM GOALS.**

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
23 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June 30, 2025,
24 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
25 of no further force and effect.