

HB1426/463321/1

BY: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1426
(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike beginning with “altering” in line 5 down through “evaluation;” in line 6; in line 11, after “circumstances;” insert “altering certain requirements and funding timelines for the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program;” and strike beginning with “extending” in line 24 down through “circumstance;” in line 25.

On page 2, in line 6, strike “4-122(a)(1), 4-122.1(a)(1),”; in line 7, strike “5-410(a) and (b),”; in the same line, after “6-1002(a),” insert “and 7-101.2(b)(1)”; strike line 8 in its entirety; strike beginning with “4-122(a)(6)” in line 13 down through “(d)(1),” in line 14 and substitute “5-230(c),”; in line 15, after “6-1012,” insert “7-101.2(c) and (d),”; strike beginning with “7-1703(d)(1),” in line 16 down through “8-710(a)(4)” in line 17; in line 17, strike “11-105(j)(6), 15-101(b), 16-305(b)(2)”; strike in their entirety lines 26 through 30, inclusive; and strike in their entirety lines 34 through 36, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 3 and 4, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 1 on page 3 through line 9 on page 4, inclusive.

On page 8 in line 26, on page 9 in lines 7, 19, and 28, and on page 10 in lines 8, 12, and 15, in each instance, strike the brackets.

On page 8 in line 26, on page 9 in lines 7, 19, and 28, and on page 10 in lines 8, 12, and 15, in each instance, strike “COUNTY BOARD”.

On page 11, after line 14, insert:

“7-101.2.”

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(b) (1) There is a grant program known as the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program in the State.

(c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, before approving qualified providers for prekindergarten services to receive a grant under this section, a qualified provider shall certify to the Department that for each classroom funded under this section the provider will:

(i) Maintain a student-to-classroom personnel ratio of no more than 10 to 1 with a maximum of 20 children per classroom;

(ii) Provide in each classroom at least one teacher [certified in early childhood education by the State] and at least one teacher's aide who [has at least a high school degree] **MEET THE HIGH STAFF QUALIFICATIONS OF § 7-1A-04(A)(1)(I) OF THIS TITLE;**

(iii) Operate an educational program for:

1. 5 days per week;

2. 180 days per year, in accordance with the public school calendar established by the local school board; and

3. A. For half-day programs, at least 2.5 hours per day; or

B. For full-day programs, at least 6.5 hours per day; and

(iv) To receive a grant under this section, meet the requirements of § 7-1A-04 of this title.

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(2) Before approving qualified providers who are Montessori schools or Montessori programs for prekindergarten services to receive a grant under this section, a qualified provider shall certify to the Department that for each classroom funded under this section the provider will:

(i) Meet the requirements under paragraph (1)(iii) of this subsection;

(ii) Maintain a student-to-classroom personnel ratio of no more than 10 to 1, with a maximum of 20 students per classroom if all of the students are under the age of 5 years;

(iii) Maintain a student-to-classroom personnel ratio of no more than 14 to 1, with a maximum of 28 students per classroom if some of the students are at least 5 years old; and

(iv) Require a classroom teacher to:

1. Hold a bachelor's degree in any field; and

2. Hold a Montessori credential issued by:

A. The Association Montessori Internationale;

B. The American Montessori Society; or

C. A program accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education.

(d) (1) (i) Beginning in fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year [2025] 2029, the Governor shall annually appropriate to the Fund an amount that is at least equal to the total amount of all funds received by the Program in the prior fiscal year.

(Over)

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(ii) Beginning in fiscal year [2026] 2030, the funds appropriated to the Fund shall be consolidated into the publicly funded full-day prekindergarten program established in Subtitle 1A of this title.

(2) The Governor may provide funds to the Department to administer the Program.

On page 14, in line 12, strike “**THE**” and substitute “**TO PHASE IN EXPANSION OF DUAL ENROLLMENT TO MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO CAN EARN THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDITS CONSISTENT WITH THE PHASED INCREASES IN SCHOOL FUNDING, FOR FISCAL YEARS 2025 THROUGH 2027, THE**”; and in line 13, after “**BOARD**” insert “**, IN CONSULTATION WITH EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM,**”.

On pages 14 through 16, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 28 on page 14 through line 12 on page 16, inclusive.

On page 17, strike lines 4 through 28, inclusive.

On page 22, in line 16, strike “an” and substitute “**ANOTHER**”.

On pages 22 and 23, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 26 on page 22 through line 28 on page 23, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On pages 6 and 7, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 28 on page 6 through line 29 on page 7, inclusive.

On page 24, strike in their entirety lines 8 through 37, inclusive.

