

SENATE BILL 359

O4, F5
SB 419/24 – B&T

5lr0864
CF HB 185

By: **Senator King**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2025

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program – Funding – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the fiscal years during which the Governor is required to
4 include in the annual budget bill a certain appropriation to the Therapeutic Child
5 Care Grant Program; and generally relating to funding for the Therapeutic Child
6 Care Grant Program.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Education
9 Section 8–420(a) through (c)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Education
14 Section 8–420(d)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 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 8–420.

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

22 (2) “Developmental delays, physical disabilities, or delays in social,
23 emotional, or behavioral functioning” means:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) A significant developmental delay or atypical development, as
2 identified by a health professional, in:

- 3 1. Cognitive development;
- 4 2. Physical development;
- 5 3. Language and speech development;
- 6 4. Psychosocial development; or
- 7 5. Self-help skills;

8 (ii) Psychological trauma, as identified through an evaluation by a
9 mental health professional; or

10 (iii) A diagnosed physical, developmental, or mental health condition
11 that impacts daily living and limits participation in typical early childhood education or
12 child care settings.

13 (3) "Program" means the Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program.

14 (b) There is a Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program in the State.

15 (c) (1) The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to providers that
16 specialize in providing child care and early childhood education to children under the age
17 of 6 years who have developmental delays, physical disabilities, or delays in social,
18 emotional, or behavioral functioning.

19 (2) The Department shall administer the Program.

20 (3) On or before August 15 each year, the Department shall award grants
21 under this section.

22 (d) (1) For each of fiscal years 2023 through 2025, **AND FOR FISCAL YEAR**
23 **2027 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER**, the Governor shall include in the annual
24 budget bill an appropriation of \$3,700,000 to the Program.

25 (2) In awarding grants under the Program, the Department shall
26 distribute:

27 (i) \$1,283,000 to existing providers in the same amount as was
28 provided in fiscal year 2022;

29 (ii) \$1,917,000 to existing providers in the same proportion as was
30 provided in fiscal year 2022 to provide additional services; and

1 (iii) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, \$500,000
2 to new providers or existing providers to enroll additional children.

3 (3) If funds are remaining after the distribution required under paragraph
4 (2)(iii) of this subsection, then the remainder shall be distributed as provided under
5 paragraph (2)(ii) of this subsection.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
7 1, 2025.