

HOUSE BILL 859

J5, P4

5lr2268
CF SB 611

By: Delegates Solomon, Guyton, D. Jones, ~~and McCaskill~~ McCaskill, Bagnall, Bhandari, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, S. Johnson, Kaiser, Kerr, Lopez, Martinez, Pena-Melnyk, Rosenberg, Ross, Taveras, White Holland, Woods, and Woorman

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations and Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Access to Health Insurance for Child Care Professionals – Outreach and**
3 **~~Qualifying Nonprofit Satellite Organizations~~**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the ~~State Department of Education, in collaboration with the~~
5 Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, to promote access to health insurance for child
6 care professionals; ~~authorizing a child care provider that receives a certain amount~~
7 ~~of funding from a unit of State, local, or federal government to participate in the~~
8 ~~State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program as a satellite~~
9 ~~organization; requiring the Exchange to conduct a certain survey; and generally~~
10 relating to access to health insurance and health benefits for child care professionals.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Education
13 Section ~~1–101(a) and (f) and 7–1A–01(a) and (i)~~
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

16 ~~BY adding to~~
17 ~~Article – Education~~
18 ~~Section 2–107~~
19 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
20 ~~(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Personnel and Pensions
Section 2–501
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Personnel and Pensions
Section 2–512
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

BY adding to
Article – Insurance
Section 31–125
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

~~1–101.~~

~~(a) In this article, unless the context requires otherwise, the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

~~(f) “Department” means the State Department of Education.~~

~~2–107.~~

7–1A–01.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(i) “Prekindergarten provider hub” means a coordinated partnership between eligible prekindergarten providers and other entities established by the Department under § 7–1A–09 of this subtitle.

Article – Insurance

31–125.

1 ~~THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE~~ MARYLAND HEALTH
2 BENEFIT EXCHANGE, SHALL PROMOTE ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CHILD
3 CARE PROFESSIONALS BY:

4 (1) ~~PARTNERING~~ PARTNERING WITH:

5 (I) ~~PREKINDERGARTEN~~ THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
6 EDUCATION;

7 (II) PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER HUBS, AS DEFINED IN §
8 7-1A-01 OF THIS ARTICLE THE EDUCATION ARTICLE;

9 ~~(II)~~ (III) ~~CHILD~~ CHILD CARE ASSOCIATIONS; AND

10 ~~(III)~~ (IV) ~~RELEVANT~~ RELEVANT NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS;

11 (2) ~~HELPING~~ HELPING CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS OBTAIN HEALTH
12 INSURANCE THROUGH THE MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE OR
13 MEDICAID;

14 (3) ~~ASSISTING~~ ASSISTING CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS WHO LOSE
15 MEDICAID COVERAGE WITH FINDING ALTERNATIVE HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS;

16 (4) ~~HELPING~~ HELPING ENSURE HEALTH PLAN OPTIONS MEET THE
17 BUDGETS AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE NEEDS OF CHILD CARE
18 PROFESSIONALS AND CHILD CARE EMPLOYERS; ~~AND~~

19 (5) ~~PROVIDING~~ PROVIDING INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES ~~OR~~
20 ~~REFERRALS FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT,~~ INCLUDING FLYERS, WEBINARS,
21 IN-PERSON EVENTS, AND OTHER OUTREACH MATERIALS TARGETED TO THE CHILD
22 CARE PROVIDER COMMUNITY; AND

23 (6) ASSESSING CURRENT LEVELS OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS ACROSS
24 THE CHILD CARE COMMUNITY BY CONDUCTING A SURVEY:

25 (I) DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE
26 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND RELEVANT NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS; AND

27 (II) WITH A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON PROVIDERS WHO
28 ACCEPT CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP VOUCHERS.

29 ~~7-1A-01.~~

30 (a) ~~In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

~~(i) "Prekindergarten provider hub" means a coordinated partnership between eligible prekindergarten providers and other entities established by the Department under § 7-1A-09 of this subtitle.~~

~~**Article State Personnel and Pensions**~~

~~2-501.~~

~~(a) In this subtitle the following terms have the meanings indicated.~~

~~(b) (1) "County board" means the board of education of a county.~~

~~(2) "County board" includes the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.~~

~~(c) "Program" means the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program.~~

~~(d) "Satellite organization" means any organization or entity whose employees are eligible to participate in the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program as a separate account.~~

~~(e) "Wellness program" means a program that is designed to:~~

~~(1) promote health or prevent or detect disease or illness;~~

~~(2) improve clinical outcomes;~~

~~(3) prevent or reduce acute admissions and readmissions to health care facilities;~~

~~(4) improve treatment compliance for chronic conditions;~~

~~(5) promote healthy behaviors; or~~

~~(6) prevent or control injury.~~

~~2-512.~~

~~(a) In this section, "qualifying nonprofit organization" means an organization that:~~

~~(1) (i) 1. receives State funds from the Maryland Department of Health that cover more than one third of the organization's operating expenses; OR~~

~~2. IS A CHILD CARE PROVIDER THAT RECEIVES FUNDS FROM A UNIT OF STATE, LOCAL, OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT COVER MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THE ORGANIZATION'S OPERATING EXPENSES; and~~

~~(ii) is:~~

~~1. described in § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and~~

~~2. exempt from income tax under § 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;~~

~~(2) is the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.;~~

~~(3) is a corporation, a limited liability company, or any other entity that is wholly owned by the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.; or~~

~~(4) is the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center.~~

~~(b) The Secretary shall adopt regulations for the enrollment and participation of employees of a qualifying nonprofit organization to participate in the Program as a satellite organization.~~

~~(c) A qualifying nonprofit organization that participates in the Program as a satellite organization shall:~~

~~(1) pay to the State:~~

~~(i) a premium in the amount determined by the Secretary; and~~

~~(ii) any costs, as determined by the Secretary, for the administration of this Program; and~~

~~(2) determine the extent to which the organization will subsidize participation by its employees in the Program.~~

~~(d) The participation of a satellite organization in the Program may not impede, undermine, or conflict with the Program's federal compliance obligations or governmental and cafeteria plan status, as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 125.~~

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