

SENATE BILL 369

F5, O4

6lr1432
CF 6lr1430

By: **Senators Ferguson, King, Benson, Currie, Guzzone, Kelley, Klausmeier, Madaleno, McFadden, Nathan-Pulliam, Pinsky, Raskin, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Prekindergarten Programs – Notification of Eligibility by Local**
3 **Departments of Social Services**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain local departments of social services, under certain
5 circumstances, to provide to certain parents or guardians with certain family income
6 levels a certain notice that their children may be eligible for certain publicly funded
7 prekindergarten programs; and generally relating to notification of eligibility for
8 publicly funded prekindergarten programs in the State.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 7–101.1
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Education**

17 7–101.1.

18 (a) (1) In this section the following terms have the meanings indicated.

19 (2) “Economically disadvantaged background” means a family whose
20 income would make a child eligible for free or reduced price meals if the child were in
21 kindergarten.

22 (3) “Eligible child” means a child:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) Who is from an economically disadvantaged background;

2 (ii) Whose parent or guardian seeks to enroll the child in a public
3 prekindergarten program; and

4 (iii) Who is 4 years old on September 1 of the school year in which the
5 parent or legal guardian seeks to enroll the child in a public prekindergarten program.

6 (4) "Eligible for free or reduced price meals" means eligible for free or
7 reduced price meals based on eligibility requirements established by the United States
8 Department of Agriculture.

9 (b) By the 2007–2008 school year, all eligible children shall be admitted free of
10 charge to publicly funded prekindergarten programs established by each of the county
11 boards.

12 **(C) IF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A 4-YEAR-OLD CHILD WITH A FAMILY**
13 **INCOME OF NO MORE THAN 185% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES APPLIES**
14 **FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES WITH A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, THE**
15 **LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE THE PARENT OR**
16 **GUARDIAN WITH AN ORAL AND A WRITTEN NOTICE THAT THE CHILD MAY BE**
17 **ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.**

18 **[(c)] (D)** The requirements set forth in § 7–101(b) of this subtitle regarding the
19 domicile of a child and the residency of the child's parent or guardian shall apply to
20 prekindergarten programs established by county boards as required by this section.

21 **[(d)] (E)** In the comprehensive master plan that is submitted under § 5–401 of
22 this article, a county board shall identify the strategies that will be used in that county to
23 ensure that publicly funded prekindergarten programs are available to all eligible children
24 in that county by the 2007–2008 school year.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
26 1, 2016.