

# SENATE BILL 677

F1, O4

51r0762  
CF 51r0763

---

By: **Senator Ferguson**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Professional Development for Teachers and Providers of Early**  
3 **Childhood Education – Master Plan**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education, in collaboration with the  
5 Maryland Higher Education Commission, to develop a certain master plan that  
6 focuses on certain issues relating to qualified providers of early childhood education  
7 services; providing for the contents of a certain master plan; requiring the  
8 Department and the Commission to make certain recommendations; requiring the  
9 Department and the Commission to submit a certain plan and certain  
10 recommendation on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this  
11 Act; and generally relating to professional development in the early childhood  
12 education workforce.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
14 That:

15 (a) The State Department of Education, in collaboration with the Maryland  
16 Higher Education Commission, shall develop a master plan to address the critical shortage  
17 of qualified professional teachers and child care providers in the early childhood education  
18 workforce.

19 (b) The master plan required under subsection (a) of this section shall focus on:

20 (1) Creating Early Childhood Education bachelor's degree programs at  
21 institutions of higher education in the State that focus on educating children from birth to  
22 age 8;

23 (2) Establishing a continuum of high-quality professional development  
24 options in early childhood education for current and prospective providers of early  
25 childhood education, including family child care providers, child care center-based  
26 providers, and Early Head Start and Head Start staff;

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (3)    Implementing a professional development system that utilizes a  
2 nationally recognized early childhood education certificate program that accepts prior  
3 learning experience; and

4           (4)    Ensuring that regular, ongoing joint training of elementary school staff  
5 and early childhood education program staff who receive public prekindergarten funding is  
6 available.

7           (c)    The Department and the Commission shall jointly make recommendations on  
8 methods of:

9           (1)    Attracting individuals to the field of early childhood education; and

10          (2)    Retaining current teachers and providers in the field of early childhood  
11 education.

12          (d)    On or before December 31, 2015, the Department and the Commission shall  
13 jointly submit to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government  
14 Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environment Affairs Committee and the House  
15 Committee on Ways and Means:

16          (1)    The master plan required under subsection (a) of this section; and

17          (2)    The recommendations required under subsection (c) of this section.

18          SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
19 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2016,  
20 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and  
21 of no further force and effect.