

HOUSE BILL 1255

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By: **Delegates Cain, Henson, Bagnall, Chang, Charkoudian, Cullison, Fraser-Hidalgo, Haynes, Lehman, Mosby, Palakovich Carr, Pena-Melnyk, Solomon, Terrasa, Valderrama, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Bilingual Learner Prekindergarten Grant Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Bilingual Learner Prekindergarten Grant Program;
4 establishing the purpose of the Program; requiring the Governor to include a certain
5 appropriation for the Program in the annual budget bill; authorizing the State
6 Department of Education to adopt regulations; requiring the Department to report
7 to the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year; defining certain terms;
8 and generally relating to the Bilingual Learner Prekindergarten Grant Program.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Education

11 Section 7–101.4

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 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 **7–101.4.**

18 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
19 **INDICATED.**

20 **(2) “BILINGUAL EDUCATION” MEANS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN**
21 **WHICH TWO LANGUAGES ARE USED FOR INSTRUCTION, AND CAN INCLUDE**
22 **BILINGUAL IMMERSION PROGRAMS AND DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE BILINGUAL LEARNER PREKINDERGARTEN GRANT PROGRAM.

(B) THERE IS A BILINGUAL LEARNER PREKINDERGARTEN GRANT PROGRAM.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION WITH GRANTS TO ASSIST IN CREATING PILOT PROGRAMS TO:

(1) FACILITATE BILINGUAL EDUCATION FOR PREKINDERGARTEN STUDENTS;

(2) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES FOR SUPPORTING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS IN PREKINDERGARTEN AND THEIR FAMILIES;

(3) ENSURE THAT PREKINDERGARTEN INSTRUCTORS ARE TRAINED IN BILINGUAL EDUCATION OR ARE CERTIFIED IN ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES;

(4) COMMUNICATE WITH THE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS IN THEIR HOME LANGUAGE; AND

(5) SCREEN AND ASSESS PREKINDERGARTEN STUDENTS IN THEIR HOME LANGUAGE TO IMPROVE THE ACCURACY OF ASSESSMENTS OF STUDENTS' WORK.

(D) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000,000 TO THE PROGRAM.

(E) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

(F) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2022, AND EACH DECEMBER 1 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVALUATING THE PROGRAM.

(2) THE REPORT REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

(I) AN ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE PROGRAM HAS IMPROVED STUDENT KINDERGARTEN READINESS, AS MEASURED BY THE

1 **KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT; AND**

2 **(II) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXPANDING THE PROGRAM.**

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
4 1, 2020.