

**CHAPTER 436**

**(House Bill 1491)**

AN ACT concerning

**State Department of Education - Early Learning and Child Care Programs**

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to develop a certain plan to accredit certain early learning programs and child care programs that are planning to provide or are providing certain programs to certain children; requiring the State Department of Education to submit a certain plan to the Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families on or before a certain date; requiring the State Department of Education to develop a certain contract for certain local school systems; and generally relating to early learning and child care programs and the State Department of Education.

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

(a) (1) The State Department of Education shall develop a plan for the accreditation of all existing early learning programs and child care programs that are planning to provide or are currently providing full-time kindergarten classes or publicly funded prekindergarten programs for low-income four year old children in the State.

(2) The plan required under subsection (a) of this section shall include an estimation of the cost of the plan and a timetable for implementing the plan.

(3) The State Department of Education shall submit the plan to the Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on or before December 31, 2005.

(b) The State Department of Education shall develop a model State contract for local school systems to use to partner with existing early learning programs and child care providers.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

Approved May 10, 2005.

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**CHAPTER 437**

**(House Bill 1494)**

AN ACT concerning

**Task Force to Study the Impact of Autoimmune Disease in Maryland**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Impact of Autoimmune