

CHAPTER 561

(House Bill 1304)

AN ACT concerning

Education - Council on Early Childhood Development

FOR the purpose of establishing a council on early childhood development in the State; requiring the council to perform certain duties; providing for membership; providing for a chairman and for staff; requiring the council to report to the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of the council after a certain date; and generally relating to establishing a council on early childhood development in the State.

Preamble

WHEREAS, In 1986, in Maryland, there were nearly 300,000 children under the age of 6 whose mothers worked outside the home; and

WHEREAS, It is predicted by the U.S. Census Bureau that by 1990, 75 percent of children under the age of 6 in the United States will have working mothers; and

WHEREAS, There is now increasing pressure on public and private agencies to expand programs for these children; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor shall direct the State Department of Education and the Office for Children and Youth to establish a Council on Early Childhood Development.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Council on Early Childhood Development shall:

1. ~~oversee~~ review the expansion of early childhood education programs in Maryland, including the development of public preschool programs;

2. in the development of public preschool programs, insure ensure that existing child care delivery systems are taken into account;

3. in order to insure ensure that public preschool programs conform to early childhood education standards, develop methods to evaluate and monitor public preschool programs; and

4. promote and encourage early childhood education in the State.