

Regulation, to establish and administer the STEP Program; requiring the STEP Program to provide certain grants on a competitive basis to a certain number of local workforce investment boards; providing for the funding of the STEP Program; specifying the STEP Program application process and application contents; requiring the Board to evaluate certain applications, to consider factors, and to recommend to the Department the distribution of certain grants; requiring the Board to adopt certain performance evaluation standards; authorizing the Board to adopt certain regulations and guidelines; requiring a local workforce investment board that receives a STEP Program grant to develop certain processes and programs, provide for the creation of certain accounts, ensure that eligible individuals make certain applications prior to use of certain funds, coordinate with certain programs that provide wraparound services, assist eligible individuals in making certain applications prior to use of certain funds, collect and report certain data, and comply with certain performance evaluation requirements; requiring a local workforce investment board that receives a STEP Program grant to develop certain employer-based training programs that meet certain requirements; requiring the Department to distribute STEP Program grants consistent with certain recommendations, to establish certain financial and data collection procedures, and to provide certain technical assistance; requiring the Board to submit a certain annual report by a certain date; expressing the intent of the General Assembly if certain funds are used; expressing the intent of the General Assembly that certain funds be directed primarily to certain individuals; defining certain terms; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the creation of the Skills-Based Training for Employment Promotion (STEP) Pilot Program.

BY adding to

Article 41 – Governor – Executive and Administrative Departments

Section 18-401 through 18-408, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 4. Skills-Based Training for Employment Promotion (STEP) Pilot Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Fifteen percent of Maryland’s children live in poverty and even more live in near poverty; and

WHEREAS, Nationally almost two-thirds of children in poverty have working parents; and

WHEREAS, During the past 20 years, low-income families have seen an erosion in their standard of living, while at the same time the wealthiest families have experienced a dramatic increase in real income and wealth; and