



Rep. William Davis

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1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1822

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 1822 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Early
5 Childhood Program Recruitment and Eligibility Screening Pilot
6 Program Act.

7 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

8 "Blended classroom" means a classroom that is operated
9 under a program that gives the provider the option to operate
10 classrooms that are shared by a Head Start program and an early
11 childhood program in which children enrolled in the program
12 are financially supported through several funding sources and
13 agencies. Classrooms may be partially blended in which one or
14 more classrooms are blended at one or more program locations
15 but not all classrooms are blended, or classrooms may be fully
16 blended in which every classroom is offered by a Head Start

1 program and receives 90% of its funding from State or federal
2 sources. However, other sources such as Title I and private
3 tuition may also be used to support the enrollment of
4 children.

5 "Classroom", with respect to a Head Start program, means a
6 group of children who are supervised and taught by 2 paid staff
7 members, both of whom are teachers or one of whom is a teacher
8 and one of whom is a teacher's aide, and, if possible, a
9 volunteer.

10 "Communication" means a discussion by an early childhood
11 program provider with the parents or guardians of all eligible
12 participants in the program that must describe the program to
13 the parents or guardians to ensure that the parents or
14 guardians are made aware of and are informed about the program
15 and their right to participate in the program.

16 "Full utilization" means an Early Head Start program's
17 funded enrollment numbers for children from birth to 3 years
18 of age are met or exceeded or a Head Start program's funded
19 enrollment numbers for children 3 or 4 years of age are met or
20 exceeded per federal requirements, whichever is applicable.

21 "Funded enrollment" means the number of participants that
22 a Head Start or Early Head Start grantee is to serve as
23 indicated on its federal grant award.

24 "Head Start or Early Head Start program" means a program
25 that provides services to children and their families who live
26 in extreme poverty, as set by guidelines established by the

1 federal government that are tied to the poverty guidelines
2 updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S.
3 Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of
4 42 U.S.C. 9902(2), or to children who are homeless or in foster
5 care; provides the skills those children need to be successful
6 in school and life; promotes the school readiness of those
7 children by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional
8 development in a learning environment that supports children's
9 growth in language, literacy, mathematics, science, social and
10 emotional functioning, the creative arts, and physical skills;
11 provides approaches to learning to low-income children and
12 their families; and provides health, educational, nutritional,
13 social, and other services that are determined based on a
14 family needs assessment.

15 "Head Start or Early Head Start program eligibility" means
16 that families who live in extreme poverty, as determined by
17 the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal
18 Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
19 under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2), families who are
20 homeless, children in foster care, and children from families
21 who receive public assistance from this State's Temporary
22 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program or from
23 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are eligible regardless of
24 income.

25 "Participating entity" means a Head Start or Early Head
26 Start program, Preschool for All or Preschool for All

1 Expansion program, or Prevention Initiative program located
2 (i) in any of the following zip codes for Pilot Program One:
3 62001, 62002, 62010, 62232, 62018, 62021, 62024, 62025, 62034,
4 62040, 62046, 62048, 62249, 62058, 62060, 62061, 62062, 62067,
5 62074, 62084, 62281, 62087, 62294, 62090, 62095, or 62097; or
6 (ii) in any of the following zip codes for Pilot Program Two:
7 60406, 60419, 60422, 60426, 60428, 60429, 60430, 60445, 60452,
8 60469, 60477, or 60827.

9 "Scientifically valid research" includes applied research,
10 basic research, and field-initiated research in which the
11 rationale, design, and interpretation are soundly developed in
12 accordance with the principles of scientific research.

13 "Universal Early Childhood Program Application" means an
14 application form for services that is required to be utilized
15 by each early childhood program in this State that receives
16 90% or more of its funding through federal and State funds and
17 that provides services to children from birth to 5 years of
18 age.

19 Section 10. Findings.

20 (a) Every young child and family has the right to
21 equitable learning opportunities that help them achieve their
22 full potential as engaged learners and valued members of
23 society regardless of race, ethnicity, and social
24 circumstances. Early childhood programs, including Head Start
25 and Early Head Start programs, provide essential support,

1 structure, and opportunities for young children and blended
2 classroom structures that provide support, encourage learning,
3 and promote a healthy child.

4 (b) Head Start and Early Head Start programs:

5 (1) provide support for the whole child by promoting
6 school readiness and actively ensuring each child is
7 healthy, including nutrition, oral health, and mental
8 health, and is ready to learn;

9 (2) provide comprehensive health, educational,
10 nutritional, social, and other services needed to aid
11 participating children in attaining their full potential
12 and to prepare children to succeed in school;

13 (3) attract and retain qualified staff who are capable
14 of delivering and implementing a high-quality and
15 comprehensive program, including the ability to carry out
16 a research-based curriculum aligned with State early
17 learning standards;

18 (4) have child-to-teacher ratios, group size, and
19 family service worker caseloads that reflect best
20 practices and are tied to high-quality service delivery;

21 (5) are based on scientifically valid research,
22 including:

23 (A) curricula that are based on scientifically
24 valid research, are developmentally appropriate, and
25 promote the school readiness of children participating
26 in the program involved; and

1 (B) teaching practices that are based, as
2 appropriate, on scientifically valid research, that
3 are developmentally appropriate, and that promote the
4 school readiness of children participating in the
5 programs.

6 (6) maintain strong fiscal controls and cost-effective
7 fiscal management;

8 (7) coordinate and collaborate with other public or
9 private entities providing early childhood education and
10 developmental programs and services for young children in
11 the community;

12 (8) coordinate with public and private entities that
13 are willing to commit resources to assist the programs in
14 meeting their program needs;

15 (9) facilitate the involvement of parents,
16 grandparents, and kinship caregivers, as appropriate, of
17 children participating in the programs and in activities
18 at home and, if practicable, at the location of the
19 programs, which is designed to help such persons become
20 full partners in the education of their children;

21 (10) provide an opportunity for parents to participate
22 in the development and overall conduct of the programs at
23 the local level;

24 (11) provide parenting-skills training;

25 (12) perform a family needs assessment with respect to
26 each participating family that includes consultation with

1 parents, foster parents, grandparents, and kinship
2 caregivers, as applicable, in a manner and language that
3 such persons can understand, to the extent practicable,
4 about the benefits of parental involvement;

5 (13) meet the diverse needs of the population served,
6 including, but not limited to:

7 (A) meeting the needs of limited
8 English-proficient children and their families by
9 implementing procedures to identify such children,
10 implementing plans to provide trained personnel, and
11 implementing plans to provide services to assist these
12 children in making progress toward the acquisition of
13 the English language, while making meaningful progress
14 in attaining knowledge, skills, abilities, and
15 development; and

16 (B) meeting the needs of children with
17 disabilities by implementing procedures to identify
18 such children and implementing procedures for referral
19 of these children for evaluation to State or local
20 agencies providing services and plans for
21 collaboration with those State or local agencies;

22 (14) reserve a percentage of their funding, as
23 required and set by federal guidelines, for the enrollment
24 of children with disabilities; and

25 (15) meet the needs of homeless children, including
26 their transportation needs, and the needs of children in

1 foster care.

2 (c) Blended classrooms in early childhood programs share
3 all of the following characteristics:

4 (1) Costs are shared in that costs are prorated from
5 each funding source.

6 (2) Separate audit trails are maintained for each
7 funding source.

8 (3) A classroom must meet the operating requirements
9 of all funding sources. If classroom standards are not
10 comparable or the same between 2 or more classrooms, the
11 most stringent standard applies.

12 (4) Children receive all services for which they are
13 eligible.

14 (5) Wrap-around services provide before-school and
15 after-school child care that is coordinated with child
16 care providers and family resource centers.

17 (6) Head Start and Early Head Start programs
18 coordinate with medical, health, mental health, and social
19 service agencies to meet the comprehensive needs of
20 children and families.

21 Section 15. Early Childhood Program Recruitment and
22 Eligibility Screening Pilot Program.

23 (a) The Early Childhood Program Recruitment and
24 Eligibility Screening Pilot Program is created to coordinate
25 the enrollment of children into early childhood programs that

1 receive 90% or more of their funding through federal and State
2 funds and that provide services to children from birth to 5
3 years of age. The Early Childhood Program Recruitment and
4 Eligibility Screening Pilot Program shall provide improved
5 program coordination to identify and serve this State's
6 neediest children by avoiding a duplication of services and
7 the supplanting of federal funds and shall maximize the use of
8 Head Start and Early Head Start program funds. In addition,
9 the Early Childhood Program Recruitment and Eligibility
10 Screening Pilot Program shall prioritize families who meet
11 Head Start or Early Head Start program eligibility guidelines
12 for enrollment into those programs, which frees up enrollment
13 slots for other early childhood programs in the local
14 community that have broader eligibility guidelines.

15 (b) The Early Childhood Program Recruitment and
16 Eligibility Screening Pilot Program shall be implemented and
17 administered by the State Board of Education, which shall act
18 in cooperation with other programs serving young children in
19 the community, including public schools, child care providers,
20 special education cooperatives, Head Start and Early Head
21 Start programs, Preschool for All and Preschool for All
22 Expansion programs, and Prevention Initiative programs.

23 (c) The Early Childhood Program Recruitment and
24 Eligibility Screening Pilot Program shall begin with the
25 2021-2022 school year and shall operate for a period of 2
26 school years in which either Pilot Program One or Pilot

1 Program Two shall be implemented as determined by the location
2 of the participating entity.

3 Section 20. Universal Early Childhood Program Application;
4 enrollment.

5 (a) The State Board of Education shall develop a Universal
6 Early Childhood Program Application. Each early childhood
7 program in a community that receives 90% or more of its funding
8 through federal and State funds and that provides services to
9 children from birth to 5 years of age shall use the Universal
10 Early Childhood Program Application to determine a family's
11 eligibility for any and all of the community's early childhood
12 programs. One of the eligibility criteria included on the
13 Universal Early Childhood Program Application must be based on
14 the family's household income level as determined by poverty
15 guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the
16 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the
17 authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).

18 (b) If an applicant family meets the income eligibility
19 guidelines established by a Head Start or Early Head Start
20 program, the applicant family must be offered the opportunity
21 for communication about enrollment into the Head Start or
22 Early Head Start program and to enroll in the Head Start or
23 Early Head Start program prior to enrolling in any other
24 community program. If the applicant family does not meet the
25 income eligibility guidelines set forth by the Head Start or

1 Early Head Start program, the applicant family must be offered
2 the opportunity for communication about enrolling in another
3 community program selected by the applicant family.

4 If a Head Start or Early Head Start program has met full
5 utilization, a family may be placed in another early childhood
6 program serving young children in the community.

7 Section 25. Waiting list. Each early childhood program
8 that receives 90% or more of its funding through federal and
9 State funds and provides services for children from birth to 5
10 years of age shall coordinate with similar early childhood
11 programs in the community to ensure that a child whose
12 household income meets the eligibility requirements of the
13 Head Start program and early childhood programs or the
14 eligibility requirements of local, State, or federal early
15 childhood programs remains on a waiting list for an eligible
16 provider for no longer than 45 days.

17 Section 90. Rules. The State Board of Education may adopt
18 any rules necessary to implement this Act.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
20 2021."