

SENATE BILL 806

F5, O4

2lr1858
CF 2lr1857

By: **Senator King**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Care Providers and Employees – Bonuses**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing funding for, the award of, and the distribution of bonuses
4 for child care providers and employees; and generally relating to bonuses for child
5 care providers and employees.

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

8 (a) (1) For fiscal year 2024, the Governor shall include in the annual budget
9 bill an appropriation of \$16,000,000 to the State Department of Education to carry out this
10 section.

11 (2) The Department may use any other funds, including federal funding, in
12 addition to the funds provided under paragraph (1) of this subsection to award a bonus
13 under this section.

14 (b) (1) The Department shall use \$10,000,000 of the funds received under
15 subsection (a)(1) of this section to award a \$1,000 retention bonus to:

16 (i) each individual who, during fiscal year 2024, holds a credential
17 through the Maryland Child Care Credential Program established under § 9.5–904 of the
18 Education Article; and

19 (ii) each individual who earns a credential through the Maryland
20 Child Care Credential Program during fiscal year 2024, if the individual does not qualify
21 for a new hire bonus under subsection (c) of this section.

22 (2) The Department shall distribute an award under paragraph (1) of this
23 subsection to an individual after receiving proof that the individual is employed as a child
24 care provider, or by a child care provider, that participates in the Child Care Scholarship

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Program in the State.

2 (c) (1) The Department shall use \$4,000,000 of the funds received under
3 subsection (a)(1) of this section to award a \$500 new hire bonus to:

4 (i) each individual who, during fiscal year 2024, begins employment
5 in the State as a child care provider, or with a child care provider, and commits to remaining
6 employed as a provider or by a provider for at least 6 months; and

7 (ii) each individual who receives an award under item (i) of this
8 paragraph who earns a credential through the Maryland Child Care Credential Program
9 during fiscal year 2024.

10 (2) The Department shall distribute an award under paragraph (1) of this
11 subsection to an individual after receiving proof that the individual was employed for at
12 least 6 months during fiscal year 2024 as a child care provider, or by a child care provider,
13 that participates in the Child Care Scholarship Program in the State.

14 (d) (1) The Department shall use \$2,000,000 of the funds received under
15 subsection (a)(1) of this section to award a \$500 hiring assistance bonus to each individual
16 hired during fiscal year 2024 by a child care provider that participates in the Child Care
17 Scholarship Program.

18 (2) A child care provider may use funds received under paragraph (1) of
19 this subsection for advertising a position, licensure or certification costs, background check
20 fees, or paying the first month of salary to a new employee.

21 (e) The Department shall establish a process for awarding bonuses under this
22 section.

23 (f) (1) The Department shall award funds under this section on a first-come,
24 first-served basis.

25 (2) The Department may continue to award bonuses under this section on
26 or after July 1, 2024, with funding allocated under subsection (a)(2) of this section.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
28 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 6 months and, at the end of
29 December 31, 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall
30 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.