

# SENATE BILL 687

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CF 5lr2096

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By: **Senator Benson**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Care Scholarship Program – Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement**  
3 **to Successful Adulthood Pilot Program – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement to  
5 Successful Adulthood Pilot Program in the Child Care Scholarship Program; and  
6 generally relating to the establishment of the Youth Transitioning From Foster  
7 Placement to Successful Adulthood Pilot Program.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
9 Article – Education  
10 Section 9.5–113(a) and (b)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Education  
15 Section 9.5–113(c)(1) and (d)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY adding to  
19 Article – Education  
20 Section 9.5–113.2  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
24 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – Education**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



9.5–113.

(a) In this section, “Program” means the Child Care Scholarship Program.

(b) The Department shall administer the Program in accordance with federal law.

(c) (1) The Department shall [establish]:

(I) **ESTABLISH** a process that meets the requirements of this subsection for granting presumptive eligibility for a subsidy under the Program; **AND**

(II) **INCORPORATE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE YOUTH TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER PLACEMENT TO SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD PILOT PROGRAM AS ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9.5–113.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

(d) The Department shall award a scholarship under the Program in an amount sufficient to ensure that an individual will not be required to pay a copay for child care if the individual provides proof, as determined by the Department, of:

(1) (I) Participation in one of the following programs:

[(i)] 1. Federal Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children;

[(ii)] 2. Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program;

[(iii)] 3. Federal Housing Act Housing Choice Voucher Program;

[(iv)] 4. Supplemental Security Income benefits; or

[(v)] 5. Temporary cash assistance; and

[(2)] (II) Employment or enrollment in an education or career training program; **OR**

(2) **PARTICIPATION IN THE YOUTH TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER PLACEMENT TO SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9.5–113.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

**9.5–113.2.**

(A) (1) **IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

(2) **“FOSTER YOUTH” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:**

1                   (I)    IS AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD AND UNDER THE AGE OF 22  
2 YEARS; AND

3                   (II) 1.   IS IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE UNDER THE  
4 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE; OR

5                               2.   WAS IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE UNDER THE  
6 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S 18TH BIRTHDAY.

7                   (3)    "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE YOUTH TRANSITIONING FROM  
8 FOSTER PLACEMENT TO SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD PILOT PROGRAM.

9                   (B)   (1)   THERE IS A YOUTH TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER PLACEMENT  
10 TO SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD PILOT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

11                               (2)   THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO ASSIST FOSTER  
12 YOUTH IN APPLYING FOR AND ACCESSING SUBSIDIES IN THE CHILD CARE  
13 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

14                   (C)   (1)   THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM.

15                               (2)   THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL BEGIN ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1,  
16 2026, AND SHALL END ON DECEMBER 31, 2028.

17                   (D)   THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REMOVE BARRIERS IN THE CHILD CARE  
18 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESS FOR FOSTER YOUTH IN THE PILOT  
19 PROGRAM BY REMOVING THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

20                               (1)   PROOF OF A FOSTER YOUTH'S EMPLOYMENT OR ENROLLMENT IN  
21 AN EDUCATION OR CAREER TRAINING PROGRAM;

22                               (2)   THE NAME OF THE OTHER PARENT OF THE FOSTER YOUTH'S  
23 CHILD; AND

24                               (3)   A WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM A PARENT IF THE PARENT IS  
25 NOT RESIDING IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD AS THE CHILD.

26                   (E)   (1)   THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRACK EXPENDITURES ON  
27 SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM ON A MONTHLY BASIS,  
28 INCLUDING:

1                   **(I) THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF FOSTER YOUTH RECEIVING**  
2 **SUBSIDIES UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM; AND**

3                   **(II) THE AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT RECEIVED BY**  
4 **FOSTER YOUTH UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM.**

5                   **(2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR OF THE PILOT**  
6 **PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN**  
7 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, REGARDING:**

8                   **(I) THE STATUS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM; AND**

9                   **(II) AN EVALUATION IN MEETING THE PILOT PROGRAM'S**  
10 **GOALS TO REMOVE BARRIERS FOR FOSTER YOUTH IN ACCESSING SCHOLARSHIPS.**

11           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
12 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June 30, 2029,  
13 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
14 of no further force and effect.