

# SENATE BILL 523

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4r1146

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By: **Senators Feldman and Glassman**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study a Program for Interest-Free Loans to STEM College**  
3 **Students in Maryland**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study a Program for Interest-Free  
5 Loans to STEM College Students in Maryland; providing for the composition,  
6 cochairs, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force  
7 from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of  
8 certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations  
9 regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and  
10 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a  
11 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to  
12 the Task Force to Study a Program for Interest-Free Loans to STEM College  
13 Students in Maryland.

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
15 MARYLAND, That:

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study a Program for Interest-Free Loans to  
17 STEM College Students in Maryland.

18 (b) The Task Force consists of the following 15 members:

19 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
20 President of the Senate;

21 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker  
22 of the House;

23 (3) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (4) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the  
2 Secretary's designee; and

3           (5) the following nine members, appointed by the Governor:

4                   (i) three representatives of the technology industry in the  
5 State;

6                   (ii) one representative of the Northeast Maryland Higher  
7 Education Advisory Board;

8                   (iii) one representative of the Tech Council of Maryland;

9                   (iv) one representative of the Aberdeen Proving Ground;

10                  (v) one representative of Fort George G. Meade;

11                  (vi) one representative of Fort Detrick; and

12                  (vii) one representative of Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

13           (c) (1) The President of the Senate shall designate a Senate cochair of the  
14 Task Force.

15                   (2) The Speaker of the House of Delegates shall designate a House  
16 cochair of the Task Force.

17           (d) The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall provide staff for the  
18 Task Force.

19           (e) A member of the Task Force:

20                   (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

21                   (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
22 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

23           (f) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations regarding:

24                   (1) interest-free loans or other financing methods employed by other  
25 states for students attending college within those states;

26                   (2) interest-free loans or other financing methods employed by other  
27 states for students attending college within those states that focus on or are limited to  
28 students engaged in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curricula;

1           (3)     the use of public–private partnerships to provide funding, in whole  
2 or in part, for students engaged in STEM curricula who enroll in an apprenticeship  
3 program or are employed in the State following completion of a course of study;

4           (4)     the performance of secondary schools or courses of study in  
5 preparing students for college or postsecondary education courses of study in STEM  
6 curricula;

7           (5)     the potential benefits of creating additional manufacturing or  
8 technology jobs in the State related to employment that is connected with research or  
9 similar activities at Maryland military installations; and

10          (6)     the efficacy of a pilot project to provide State assistance to college  
11 students engaged in STEM curricula in a local jurisdiction adjacent to a military  
12 installation in the State that is engaged in research or similar activities.

13          (g)     On or before June 30, 2015, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
14 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State  
15 Government Article, the General Assembly.

16          SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30,  
18 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
19 abrogated and of no further force and effect.