

# HOUSE BILL 538

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CF SB 75

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By: **Delegates Stein, Cassilly, and A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2015

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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

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

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

18 (b) The Task Force consists of the following 13 members:

19 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
20 the Senate;

21 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the  
22 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 State;

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

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

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

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

10 (vi) one representative of Fort Detrick; and

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

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

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

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

18 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

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

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

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

1           (3)     the use of public–private partnerships to provide funding, in whole or  
2 in part, for students engaged in STEM curricula who enroll in an apprenticeship program  
3 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 preparing  
5 students for college or postsecondary education courses of study in STEM curricula;

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

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

12          (g)     On or before June 30, 2016, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
13 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State  
14 Government Article, the General Assembly.

15          SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
16 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2017,  
17 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and  
18 of no further force and effect.