

HOUSE BILL 918

F2

11r2647

By: **Delegate Amprey**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2021

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program**
3 **– Underrepresented Teachers**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for
5 Underrepresented Teachers; requiring the Office of Student Financial Assistance in
6 the Maryland Higher Education Commission to assist in the repayment of a certain
7 loan owed by certain eligible individuals; requiring the Office to determine the
8 annual amount of certain assistance; requiring a certain amount of assistance to
9 equal at least a certain percentage of a certain loan; prohibiting the Office from
10 providing certain assistance for more than a certain number of years; requiring a
11 certain applicant to demonstrate to the Office that a certain loan was used for a
12 certain purpose; requiring the Office to adopt certain regulations; specifying that
13 funds for the Program shall be as provided in the State budget; requiring the Office
14 to report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year on certain
15 information regarding the Program; defining certain terms; and generally relating
16 to the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Underrepresented
17 Teachers.

18 BY adding to

19 Article – Education

20 Section 18–3701 through 18–3705 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 37.
21 Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Underrepresented
22 Teachers”

23 Annotated Code of Maryland

24 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

27 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(I) A GRADUATE, PROFESSIONAL, OR UNDERGRADUATE**
2 **DEGREE FROM A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE; OR**

3 **(II) A RESIDENT TEACHER CERTIFICATE FROM THE**
4 **DEPARTMENT AFTER COMPLETING AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHING PREPARATION**
5 **PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT;**

6 **(2) (I) IS EMPLOYED AND HAS BEEN EMPLOYED DURING THE**
7 **IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 2 YEARS AS A TEACHER IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE**
8 **STATE THAT IS LOW-PERFORMING, HAS A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF STUDENTS**
9 **LIVING IN POVERTY, OR HAS LARGE ACHIEVEMENT GAPS BETWEEN**
10 **SUBPOPULATIONS OF STUDENTS; AND**

11 **(II) HAS RECEIVED A POSITIVE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**
12 **RATING FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR AVAILABLE IN THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE**
13 **TEACHER TAUGHT;**

14 **(3) PARTICIPATES IN AN EXTRACURRICULAR, MENTORING, OR**
15 **TUTORING PROGRAM AT THE SCHOOL IN WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL TEACHES OR IN**
16 **THE IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING COMMUNITY;**

17 **(4) RECEIVES AN INCOME THAT IS LESS THAN THE MAXIMUM**
18 **ELIGIBLE TOTAL INCOME LEVELS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE, INCLUDING ANY**
19 **ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INCOME; AND**

20 **(5) SATISFIES ANY OTHER CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE.**

21 **(C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**
22 **OFFICE SHALL DETERMINE THE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED**
23 **TO AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

24 **(2) THE AMOUNT THAT THE OFFICE PAYS TO AN ELIGIBLE**
25 **INDIVIDUAL IN A YEAR UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE AT**
26 **LEAST EQUAL TO 12.5% OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN THAT IS**
27 **ATTRIBUTABLE TO TUITION, FEES, OR BOOKS AND MATERIALS FOR**
28 **UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE STUDY.**

29 **(3) THE OFFICE MAY NOT PROVIDE HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN**
30 **REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE TO AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL UNDER THIS SUBTITLE FOR**
31 **MORE THAN 4 YEARS.**

32 **(D) AN APPLICANT FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE REPAYMENT OF A COMMERCIAL**
33 **LOAN SHALL DEMONSTRATE TO THE OFFICE THAT THE COMMERCIAL LOAN WAS**

1 USED FOR TUITION OR EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES FOR GRADUATE OR
2 UNDERGRADUATE STUDY.

3 18-3703.

4 (A) THE OFFICE SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH:

5 (1) THE MAXIMUM STARTING INCOME FOR ELIGIBILITY IN THE
6 PROGRAM;

7 (2) THE MAXIMUM TOTAL INCOME FOR ELIGIBILITY IN THE
8 PROGRAM, INCLUDING ANY ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INCOME;

9 (3) THAT PRIORITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM SHALL BE
10 GIVEN TO AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL WHO:

11 (I) GRADUATED FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
12 EDUCATION IN THE LAST 3 YEARS;

13 (II) IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE; AND

14 (III) IS EMPLOYED ON A FULL-TIME BASIS;

15 (4) A LIMIT ON THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY
16 THE OFFICE IN REPAYING THE LOAN OF AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL, BASED ON THE
17 INDIVIDUAL'S TOTAL INCOME, OUTSTANDING HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN BALANCE,
18 AND RECEIPT OF ANY OTHER LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE;

19 (5) A PROCEDURE AND SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTHLY OR ANNUAL
20 PAYMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF LOAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE TO THE
21 ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL, AS APPROPRIATE TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL IN
22 MEETING LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS;

23 (6) A REQUIREMENT THAT AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL APPLY TO
24 FEDERAL LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS FOR WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL MAY
25 QUALIFY;

26 (7) A REQUIREMENT THAT AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL NOTIFY THE
27 OFFICE IF THE INDIVIDUAL RECEIVES OTHER LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE; AND

28 (8) AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE ELIGIBILITY OF EACH INDIVIDUAL
29 PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.

1 **(B) THE OFFICE SHALL ADOPT ANY OTHER REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO**
2 **IMPLEMENT THIS SUBTITLE.**

3 **18-3704.**

4 **FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE PROVIDED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS IN THE**
5 **STATE BUDGET.**

6 **18-3705.**

7 **ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL REPORT TO THE**
8 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**
9 **ARTICLE, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING:**

10 **(1) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY ALLOCATED FOR THE PROGRAM;**

11 **(2) THE NUMBER OF AWARDS MADE AND AMOUNTS OF THE AWARDS;**

12 **AND**

13 **(3) THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS DENIED AN AWARD.**

14 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**
15 **1, 2021.**