

# HOUSE BILL 1096

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By: **Delegate Reilly**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – School Psychologist Recruitment Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the School Psychologist Recruitment Program within the  
4 State Department of Education; providing for the purpose of the Program; requiring  
5 the Program, in coordination with the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, to  
6 provide professional development programs to certified school psychologists and  
7 individuals seeking to become certified school psychologists; authorizing professional  
8 development to include certain activities; requiring the Program to maintain a  
9 certain clearinghouse and communicate and promote certain opportunities and  
10 resources; requiring the Program to reimburse certified school psychologists for  
11 attending certain conferences under certain circumstances; requiring a certified  
12 school psychologist to submit a certain application to the Program on a certain form  
13 to qualify for a certain reimbursement; requiring the Program to approve an  
14 applicant under certain circumstances; prohibiting a certain reimbursement from  
15 exceeding a certain amount; requiring the Program to select a maximum number of  
16 individuals to which the Program shall provide an amount equal to a certain  
17 certification fee; requiring a certain individual to reimburse the Program under  
18 certain circumstances; authorizing the Program to provide certain aid to an  
19 individual for up to a certain number of applications; requiring the Department to  
20 adopt certain regulations; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the  
21 School Psychologist Recruitment Program.

22 BY adding to  
23 Article – Education  
24 Section 6–124  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
26 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



## Article – Education

6–124.

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

(2) (I) “CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST” MEANS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST WHO IS CERTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES IN A PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE STATE.

(II) “CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST” INCLUDES A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST WHO MEETS THE CRITERIA UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST IS LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES.

(3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST RECRUITMENT PROGRAM.

(4) “STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS” MEANS THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 18, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.

(B) (1) THERE IS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST RECRUITMENT PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT TO CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS IN THE STATE AND INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO BECOME CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS IN THE STATE.

(C) (1) THE PROGRAM, IN COORDINATION WITH THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS, SHALL PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE, OR ARE SEEKING TO BECOME, CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS.

(2) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MAY INCLUDE:

(I) VIRTUAL COURSES OR WEBINARS;

(II) MENTORING OR PEER COLLABORATION PROGRAMS;

(III) THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT MATERIALS; AND

1 (IV) SUPPORTING UNLICENSED CERTIFIED SCHOOL  
2 PSYCHOLOGISTS IN PURSUING A LICENSE TO PRACTICE PSYCHOLOGY FROM THE  
3 STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS.

4 (3) IN PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO CERTIFIED  
5 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS, THE PROGRAM SHALL:

6 (I) MAINTAIN A CLEARINGHOUSE OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST  
7 BEST PRACTICES TO SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF CERTIFIED  
8 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS; AND

9 (II) COMMUNICATE AND PROMOTE UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES  
10 AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS.

11 (D) (1) THE PROGRAM SHALL REIMBURSE CERTIFIED SCHOOL  
12 PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR ATTENDING PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES IN ACCORDANCE  
13 WITH THIS SUBSECTION.

14 (2) A CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST SHALL SUBMIT TO THE  
15 PROGRAM AN APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT ON A FORM PROVIDED BY THE  
16 PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES THE SUBMISSION OF:

17 (I) MATERIALS ON THE PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND AN  
18 EXPLANATION OF ITS RELEVANCE TO THE CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST'S  
19 PROFESSION; AND

20 (II) RECEIPTS OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION OF THE EXPENSES  
21 FOR WHICH THE CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST REQUESTS TO BE REIMBURSED.

22 (3) SUBJECT TO FUNDING AVAILABILITY, THE PROGRAM SHALL  
23 APPROVE AN APPLICANT TO RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION  
24 IF:

25 (I) THE APPLICATION IS COMPLETE AND IS RECEIVED NOT  
26 LATER THAN 180 DAYS AFTER THE LAST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE;

27 (II) THE AMOUNT REQUESTED DOES NOT EXCEED AN AMOUNT  
28 DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT BY REGULATION; AND

29 (III) THE APPLICANT IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A  
30 REIMBURSEMENT.

1           **(E) (1) EACH YEAR, THE PROGRAM SHALL SELECT, CONSISTENT WITH**  
2 **THE AMOUNT PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE PROGRAM, A MAXIMUM OF**  
3 **1,000 INDIVIDUALS TO WHICH THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE AN AMOUNT EQUAL**  
4 **TO THE CERTIFICATION FEE CHARGED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL**  
5 **PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

6           **(2) (I) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DOES NOT COMPLETE ALL OF THE**  
7 **REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL**  
8 **PSYCHOLOGISTS SHALL REIMBURSE THE PROGRAM THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE AID**  
9 **RECEIVED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

10           **(II) THE PROVISIONS OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS**  
11 **PARAGRAPH DO NOT APPLY TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO COMPLETES ALL THE**  
12 **REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL**  
13 **PSYCHOLOGISTS BUT WHO DOES NOT RECEIVE CERTIFICATION.**

14           **(3) THE PROGRAM MAY PROVIDE AID TO AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER THIS**  
15 **SUBSECTION FOR UP TO TWO APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL**  
16 **ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

17           **(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**  
18 **SECTION, INCLUDING:**

19           **(1) THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT THE PROGRAM MAY REIMBURSE UNDER**  
20 **SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION;**

21           **(2) PROCEDURES FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION**  
22 **TO THE PROGRAM; AND**

23           **(3) CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS OF AID UNDER**  
24 **THE PROGRAM.**

25           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
26 1, 2021.