

# HOUSE BILL 1464

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CF SB 626

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By: **Delegate Sample–Hughes**

Introduced and read first time: February 25, 2022

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician**  
3 **Assistants – Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of clarifying that part–time physicians and physician assistants are  
5 eligible for participation in the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for  
6 Physicians and Physician Assistants; authorizing the Maryland Department of  
7 Health to establish prorated loan repayment assistance for part–time physicians and  
8 physician assistants; establishing the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment  
9 Program Advisory Council to assist the Department in the administration of the  
10 Program; and generally relating to the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment  
11 Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article – Health – General  
14 Section 24–1703  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article – Health – General  
19 Section 24–1704  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

22 BY adding to  
23 Article – Health – General  
24 Section 24–1708  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
26 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

27 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

2 **Article – Health – General**

3 24–1703.

4 There is a Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and  
5 Physician Assistants in the State.

6 24–1704.

7 (a) (1) In this section[, “eligible] **THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**  
8 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

9 **(2) (I) “ELIGIBLE field of employment”** means employment by an  
10 organization, institution, association, society, or corporation that is exempt from taxation  
11 under § 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

12 **[(2)] (II) “Eligible field of employment”** includes employment by the State  
13 or any local government in the State.

14 **(3) “PHYSICIAN” INCLUDES A PART–TIME PHYSICIAN.**

15 **(4) “PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT” INCLUDES A PART–TIME PHYSICIAN**  
16 **ASSISTANT.**

17 (b) **(1)** The Department shall assist in the repayment with the funds  
18 transferred to the Department by the Comptroller under § 14–207(d) of the Health  
19 Occupations Article of the amount of education loans owed by a physician or physician  
20 assistant who:

21 **[(1)] (i) 1.** Practices primary care in an eligible field of employment  
22 in a geographic area of the State that has been federally designated; or

23 **[(ii)] 2.** Is a medical resident specializing in primary care who  
24 agrees to practice for at least 2 years as a primary care physician in an eligible field of  
25 employment in a geographic area of the State that has been federally designated; and

26 **[(2)] (II)** Meets any other requirements established by the Department.

27 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ESTABLISH PRORATED LOAN REPAYMENT**  
28 **ASSISTANCE FOR A PART–TIME PHYSICIAN OR PART–TIME PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**  
29 **PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.**

30 (c) Any unspent portions of the money that is transferred to the Department for  
31 use under this subtitle from the Board of Physicians Fund may not be transferred to or

1 revert to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the Fund maintained by the  
2 Department to administer the Program.

3 **24-1708.**

4 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "COUNCIL" MEANS THE MARYLAND LOAN  
5 ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL.

6 (B) THERE IS A MARYLAND LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM  
7 ADVISORY COUNCIL.

8 (C) THE COUNCIL CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

9 (1) THE CHAIR OF THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW  
10 COMMISSION, OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE;

11 (2) THE CHAIR OF THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION, OR  
12 THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE;

13 (3) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, OR  
14 THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

15 (4) THE DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF  
16 MEDICINE, OR THE DEAN'S DESIGNEE;

17 (5) THE DEAN OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, OR  
18 THE DEAN'S DESIGNEE;

19 (6) THE PRESIDENT OF MEDCHI, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

20 (7) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRIMARY CARE OFFICE IN THE  
21 OFFICE OF POPULATION HEALTH IMPROVEMENT;

22 (8) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS;

23 (9) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ACADEMY OF  
24 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS; AND

25 (10) ANY OTHER MEMBERS AS DETERMINED NECESSARY BY THE  
26 SECRETARY.

27 (D) (1) THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL SELECT THE CHAIR OF  
28 THE COUNCIL.

1           **(2) A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL:**

2                   **(I) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE**  
3 **COUNCIL; BUT**

4                   **(II) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER**  
5 **THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE**  
6 **BUDGET.**

7           **(3) THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST THREE TIMES A YEAR.**

8           **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COUNCIL.**

9           **(F) THE COUNCIL SHALL:**

10                   **(1) SEEK PERMANENT AND DIVERSE REVENUE SOURCES TO AID IN**  
11 **THE STABILITY AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM;**

12                   **(2) HELP ENSURE MAXIMUM USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS;**

13                   **(3) USE AVAILABLE DATA AND INFORMATION TO HELP DIRECT**  
14 **FUNDING TO PRIORITY AREAS;**

15                   **(4) MONITOR SIMILAR LOAN PROGRAMS IN OTHER STATES AND**  
16 **ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAM REMAINS COMPETITIVE;**

17                   **(5) ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE**  
18 **PROGRAM;**

19                   **(6) HELP MARKET AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THE PROGRAM**  
20 **THROUGH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITIES AS AN**  
21 **INCENTIVE TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO PRACTICE IN UNDERSERVED AREAS;**  
22 **AND**

23                   **(7) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE**  
24 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON ANY NECESSARY CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM.**

25           **(G) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE COUNCIL SHALL REPORT**  
26 **TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE**  
27 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE ACTIVITIES AND**  
28 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL.**

29           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July

1 1, 2022.