

# SENATE BILL 482

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3lr2702  
CF HB 488

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By: **Senators Lewis Young, Elfreth, Muse, and Guzzone**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2023

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Mental Health**  
3 **Professionals in Public Schools**

4 FOR the purpose of expanding the purpose of the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance  
5 Repayment Program to include assisting in the repayment of certain loans for certain  
6 mental health professionals employed by ~~public schools~~ county school systems or  
7 certain local health departments in the State; requiring the Office of Student  
8 Financial Assistance to publicize the Program to eligible mental health professionals  
9 for a certain purpose; and generally relating to loan repayment assistance for mental  
10 health professionals in public schools.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Education  
13 Section 18–1501, 18–1502, and 18–1506  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2022 Replacement Volume)

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

18 **Article – Education**

19 18–1501.

20 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (b) (1) “Eligible field of employment” means employment in the State by an  
2 organization, institution, association, society, or corporation that is exempt from taxation  
3 under § 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

4 (2) “Eligible field of employment” includes employment by the State or any  
5 local government in the State, but does not include being employed as a judicial clerk in  
6 any court.

7 (c) “Higher education loan” means any loan for undergraduate or graduate study  
8 that is obtained for tuition, educational expenses, or living expenses from:

9 (1) A college or university, government, or commercial source; or

10 (2) An organization, institution, association, society, or corporation that is  
11 exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

12 **(D) (1) “MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL**  
13 ~~**EMPLOYED IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE WHO PROVIDES MENTAL**~~  
14 ~~**HEALTH SERVICES, INCLUDING AS SERVICES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND IS EMPLOYED**~~  
15 **BY:**

16 **(I) A COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM; OR**

17 **(II) A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE SCHOOL**  
18 **HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH AN AGREEMENT WITH A COUNTY BOARD.**

19 **(2) “MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL” INCLUDES A SCHOOL**  
20 **PSYCHOLOGIST, RESOURCE PSYCHOLOGIST, PSYCHOLOGIST COORDINATOR, SOCIAL**  
21 **WORKER, SOCIAL WORKER SUPERVISOR, OR MENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR.**

22 **[(d)] (E)** “Program” means the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment  
23 Program.

24 18–1502.

25 (a) There is a program of loan assistance repayment known as the Janet L.  
26 Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program in the State.

27 (b) The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall assist in the repayment of  
28 the amount of any higher education loan owed by an individual who:

29 (1) (i) Receives a graduate, professional, or undergraduate degree from:

30 1. A college or university in the State of Maryland; [or]



1                   **(2) MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WHO HAS ~~BEEN EMPLOYED IN A~~**  
 2 **~~PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR~~ PROVIDED MENTAL HEALTH**  
 3 **SERVICES IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS:**

4                   **(I) AS AN EMPLOYEE OF A COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM; OR**

5                   **(II) A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT THROUGH AN AGREEMENT**  
 6 **WITH A COUNTY BOARD.**

7           (d)   (1)   A grant awarded under subsection (c) of this section shall be known as  
 8 the Nancy Grasmick Teacher Award.

9           (2)   A recipient of a Nancy Grasmick Teacher Award shall be known as a  
 10 Nancy Grasmick Teacher Scholar.

11          (e)   An applicant for assistance in the repayment of a commercial loan shall  
 12 demonstrate to the Office that the commercial loan was used for tuition, educational  
 13 expenses, or living expenses for graduate or undergraduate study.

14          (f)   Assistance in the repayment of a loan from an entity set forth in §  
 15 18–1501(c)(2) of this subtitle shall require the approval of the Office.

16          (g)   Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the Office shall assist  
 17 in the repayment of the amount of any higher education loan owed by a licensed clinical  
 18 alcohol and drug counselor, a licensed clinical marriage and family therapy counselor, or a  
 19 licensed clinical professional counselor whose practice is located in a high–need geographic  
 20 area of the State as determined by the Maryland Department of Health.

21 18–1506.

22          The Office shall publicize the availability of the Program, including by publicizing  
 23 the Program:

24               (1)   At historically black colleges and universities; [and]

25               (2)   In a manner that focuses on students who are historically  
 26 underrepresented in the teaching field; AND

27                   **(3) TO ELIGIBLE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN AN EFFORT TO**  
 28 **RECRUIT AND RETAIN MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN**  
 29 **THE STATE.**

30          SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
 31 1, 2023.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.