

SENATE BILL 499

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4lr2931
CF 4lr1640

By: **Senator M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Department of Education – School Psychologist Recruitment Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the School Psychologist Recruitment Program within the
4 State Department of Education; requiring the Program to provide professional
5 development programs and aid for a certain certification fee to school psychologists
6 and individuals seeking to become school psychologists and to reimburse school
7 psychologists for professional conference expenses; and generally relating to the
8 School Psychologist Recruitment Program.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Education

11 Section 6–129

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Education**

17 **6–129.**

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

20 (2) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST RECRUITMENT
21 PROGRAM.

22 (3) “SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS
23 CERTIFIED TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN A PUBLIC

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 SCHOOL OR A STATE-APPROVED NONPUBLIC SCHOOL SETTING IN THE STATE.

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

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

7 (C) (1) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
8 PROGRAMS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE, OR ARE SEEKING TO BECOME, SCHOOL
9 PSYCHOLOGISTS.

10 (2) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MAY INCLUDE:

11 (I) VIRTUAL COURSES OR WEBINARS;

12 (II) MENTORING OR PEER COLLABORATION PROGRAMS; AND

13 (III) THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT MATERIALS.

14 (3) IN PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO SCHOOL
15 PSYCHOLOGISTS, THE PROGRAM SHALL:

16 (I) MAINTAIN A CLEARINGHOUSE OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST
17 BEST PRACTICES TO SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL
18 PSYCHOLOGISTS;

19 (II) COMMUNICATE AND PROMOTE UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES
20 AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS; AND

21 (III) SEEK TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS
22 FROM GROUPS HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED AMONG PROFESSIONAL
23 PERSONNEL IN THE STATE.

24 (D) (1) THE PROGRAM SHALL REIMBURSE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR
25 ATTENDING PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS
26 SUBSECTION.

27 (2) A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST SHALL SUBMIT TO THE PROGRAM AN
28 APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT ON A FORM PROVIDED BY THE PROGRAM THAT
29 INCLUDES THE SUBMISSION OF:

30 (I) MATERIALS ON THE PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND AN

1 EXPLANATION OF ITS RELEVANCE TO THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST'S PROFESSION;
2 AND

3 (II) RECEIPTS OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION OF THE EXPENSES
4 FOR WHICH THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST REQUESTS TO BE REIMBURSED.

5 (3) SUBJECT TO FUNDING AVAILABILITY, THE PROGRAM SHALL
6 APPROVE AN APPLICANT TO RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION
7 IF:

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

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

12 (III) THE APPLICANT IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A
13 REIMBURSEMENT.

14 (E) (1) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,
15 EACH YEAR, THE PROGRAM SHALL SELECT, CONSISTENT WITH THE AMOUNT
16 PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE PROGRAM, A MAXIMUM OF 100
17 INDIVIDUALS FOR WHOM THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE FUNDS TO PAY THE
18 CERTIFICATION FEE CHARGED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL
19 PSYCHOLOGISTS.

20 (II) IN SELECTING INDIVIDUALS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH, THE
21 PROGRAM SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS FROM GROUPS
22 HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED AMONG PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL IN THE
23 STATE.

24 (2) (I) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DOES NOT COMPLETE ALL THE
25 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL
26 PSYCHOLOGISTS SHALL REIMBURSE THE PROGRAM THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE AID
27 RECEIVED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

28 (II) THE PROVISIONS OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS
29 PARAGRAPH DO NOT APPLY TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO COMPLETES ALL THE
30 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL
31 PSYCHOLOGISTS BUT WHO DOES NOT RECEIVE CERTIFICATION.

32 (3) THE PROGRAM MAY PROVIDE AID TO AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER THIS
33 SUBSECTION FOR UP TO TWO APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL
34 ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS.

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

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

5 **(2) PROCEDURES FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION**
6 **TO THE PROGRAM; AND**

7 **(3) CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS OF AID UNDER**
8 **THE PROGRAM.**

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
10 1, 2024.