

SENATE BILL 96

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2001 Regular Session
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CF 11r0768

By: **Senator Baker**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2001

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 8, 2001

CHAPTER 106

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Financial Assistance - Nursing Students**

3 FOR the purpose of providing certain exceptions to the prohibition on allowing
4 recipients of certain nursing scholarships under the Economic Development
5 Assistance Grants Program to receive certain other State-sponsored financial
6 assistance.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Education
9 Section 18-701
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article - Education
14 Section 18-706
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

1 **Article - Education**

2 18-701.

3 (a) There is a program of Economic Development Student Assistance Grants
4 awarded under this subtitle for students who pledge to work in fields of geographic or
5 critical shortage in this State upon completion of their studies.

6 (b) The purpose of the Program is to:

7 (1) Provide financial assistance to students enrolled at institutions of
8 higher education in the State; and

9 (2) Address the economic development needs of the State.

10 (c) Subject to subsection (c-1) of this section, a recipient of an Economic
11 Development Student Assistance Grant under this subtitle shall:

12 (1) Be a resident of the State;

13 (2) Be selected by the Administration from qualified applicants based on
14 standards established and approved by the Commission;

15 (3) Sign a letter of intent to enroll at an eligible institution in the State
16 in an eligible program as specified for each field in which there is a geographic or
17 critical shortage in this State as provided in this subtitle;

18 (4) Furnish a guaranteed promissory note to the Commission or its
19 designee with security satisfactory to the Commission;

20 (5) After completion of studies in an eligible program, perform the
21 service obligation as specified for each field in which there is a geographic or critical
22 shortage as provided in this subtitle; and

23 (6) Satisfy any additional criteria the Commission may establish.

24 (c-1) The provisions of subsection (c)(4) of this section may be waived by the
25 Commission when a recipient is undergoing extraordinary circumstances as
26 determined by the Commission.

27 (d) (1) Except [for Educational Excellence Awards granted under § 18-301
28 of this title] AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, a recipient of a
29 grant under this subtitle may not receive any other form of State-sponsored financial
30 assistance.

31 (2) (I) A RECIPIENT OF A GRANT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY RECEIVE
32 AN EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD GRANTED UNDER § 18-301 OF THIS TITLE.

33 (II) A RECIPIENT OF A NURSING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER §
34 18-706 OF THIS SUBTITLE ALSO MAY RECEIVE:

1 (2) The Commission shall adopt regulations necessary to implement any
2 changes under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

3 (3) The Commission shall notify the General Assembly of any changes
4 implemented under this subsection.

5 (i) Funds for the Economic Development Student Assistance Grants Program
6 shall be as provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the Governor.

7 18-706.

8 (a) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

9 (1) "Eligible organization" means an institution, including a licensed
10 hospital, nursing home, adult day care center, public health agency, home health
11 agency, or other organization authorized by the Secretary of Health and Mental
12 Hygiene.

13 (2) "Eligible institution" means an institution of postsecondary
14 education:

15 (i) Approved to operate by the Maryland Higher Education
16 Commission; and

17 (ii) That awards nursing degrees or diplomas.

18 (3) "Nursing shortage area" means a recognized area of nursing service
19 or specialization determined by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to be an
20 area where there exists a shortage of qualified nurses in eligible organizations.

21 (4) "Nursing student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary
22 nursing education degree or diploma program at an eligible institution.

23 (5) "Service obligation" means employment as a nurse in a nursing
24 shortage area in an eligible organization.

25 (b) (1) Economic development student assistance grants may be awarded as
26 scholarships for nursing students in nursing shortage areas.

27 (2) (i) The nursing scholarship awarded under this section shall be in
28 the amount of tuition and fees not to exceed \$2,400 annually for a full-time student or
29 a prorated award according to the number of credit hours taken by a part-time
30 student.

31 (ii) Each award shall be renewable on an annual basis up to a
32 maximum amount of \$9,600, if the recipient:

33 1. Remains a resident of this State;

34 2. Enrolls in an eligible institution;

