
By: **Delegate Heller**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Scholarships - Speech Language Pathologists and**
3 **Audiologists**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Office of Student Financial Assistance within the
5 Maryland Higher Education Commission to award certain grants to certain
6 persons who provide speech language pathology or audiology services; requiring
7 certain recipients of certain grants to meet certain qualifications; requiring
8 certain recipients of certain grants to sign a certain letter; providing that certain
9 grants provided to certain recipients may not be used for certain purposes;
10 providing that a certain amount of tuition assistance shall be equal to a certain
11 calculation; providing for the renewal of certain grants under certain
12 circumstances; and generally relating to the provision of grants for speech
13 language pathology and audiology services.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article - Education
16 Section 18-703
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Education**

22 18-703.

23 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

24 (2) "Area of critical shortage" means an academic field identified by the
25 State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of subsection (h) of this
26 section as having projected employment vacancies which substantially exceed
27 projected qualified graduates.

1 (3) "Area of geographic shortage" means a geographic area of the State
2 identified by the State Board of Education as less able than others in the State to
3 satisfy the need for public school teachers in an academic field identified for at least
4 3 years as an area of critical shortage.

5 (4) "Degreed recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance grant
6 under this section who possesses an undergraduate or graduate degree.

7 (5) "Eligible institution" means an accredited college or university that
8 has a program of undergraduate or graduate studies that would certify the recipient
9 to teach in this State in an area of critical shortage and which is:

10 (i) Authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission;
11 and

12 (ii) Approved by the State Board of Education.

13 (6) "Nondegreed recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance
14 grant awarded under this section who does not possess an undergraduate or graduate
15 degree in an area of critical shortage.

16 (7) "Public school" means a school in the public elementary and
17 secondary education system in this State.

18 (8) "Service obligation" means to teach in the State in an area of
19 geographic or critical shortage in a public school.

20 (9) "Teacher recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance grant
21 awarded under this section employed or certified as a teacher in a field which is not
22 an area of critical shortage.

23 (10) "Tuition assistance" means any funds provided for the cost of basic
24 instructional charges, fees, room, board, or other related educational expenses.

25 (b) (1) Economic Development Student Assistance Grants to be known as
26 the Sharon Christa McAuliffe Memorial Teacher Education Award may be awarded as
27 teacher education tuition assistance grants.

28 (2) The Office shall award annually to eligible applicants tuition
29 assistance grants for the education of persons to:

30 (I) [teach] TEACH in areas of critical or geographic shortage; OR

31 (II) PROVIDE SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY OR AUDIOLOGY
32 SERVICES.

33 (3) The recipient of a teacher education tuition assistance grant shall use
34 the award at an eligible institution.

1 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules and regulations to
2 determine academic criteria for selection of tuition assistance recipients from eligible
3 applicants.

4 (c) A recipient of a tuition assistance grant shall:

5 (1) Qualify as follows:

6 (i) Have earned 60 credits of undergraduate collegiate education
7 and be enrolled in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in a program leading to
8 certification to teach in an area of critical or geographic shortage OR TO PROVIDE
9 SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY OR AUDIOLOGY SERVICES and be selected by the
10 Office on a competitive basis among qualified applicants based on academic criteria,
11 not limited to standardized tests, established by the State Board of Education; or

12 (ii) Have an undergraduate or graduate degree and be enrolled in
13 or sign a letter of intent to enroll in courses leading to certification to teach in an area
14 of critical or geographic shortage OR TO PROVIDE SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY OR
15 AUDIOLOGY SERVICES and be selected among qualified applicants on a competitive
16 basis based on academic criteria established by the State Board of Education; or

17 (iii) Persons who are already teachers, SPEECH LANGUAGE
18 PATHOLOGISTS, OR AUDIOLOGISTS shall:

19 1. Be nominated by the superintendent of schools of the
20 system in which the person [teaches or intends to teach] IS EMPLOYED OR INTENDS
21 TO BE EMPLOYED; [and]

22 2. Enroll as a student in courses required for teacher
23 certification in an academic area in which there is a critical or geographic shortage of
24 teachers, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY CERTIFICATION, OR AUDIOLOGY
25 CERTIFICATION; and

26 3. Be selected by the Office on a competitive basis among
27 qualified applicants based on criteria established by the State Board of Education;

28 (2) Sign a letter of intent as follows:

29 (i) A nondegreed recipient who is not already a teacher, SPEECH
30 LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST, OR AUDIOLOGIST shall be enrolled in or sign a letter of
31 intent to enroll in an eligible institution as a student in an undergraduate program
32 necessary for teacher, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY, OR AUDIOLOGY education; or

33 (ii) A degreed recipient shall enroll in or sign a letter of intent to
34 enroll in courses leading to certification to teach in an area of critical or geographic
35 shortage OR TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY OR
36 AUDIOLOGY; or

1 (iii) A recipient who is already a teacher shall sign a letter of intent
2 to enroll in an eligible institution as a student in a teacher certification program in an
3 area in which there is a critical or geographic shortage of teachers;

4 (3) Perform the service obligation upon completion of required studies;

5 (4) Maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and
6 advance in academic standing at least 1 year in each year in which an award is
7 renewed; and

8 (5) Satisfy whatever other criteria the Office and the State Board of
9 Education establish.

10 (d) Grants to teacher, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST, OR AUDIOLOGIST
11 recipients may not be used to supplant retraining efforts by local boards of education.

12 (e) (1) For a full-time student, the annual amount of tuition assistance shall
13 be equal to the cost of tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board, not to exceed the
14 lesser of costs incurred for the program required for teacher certification in an area of
15 critical or geographic shortage, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY CERTIFICATION, OR
16 AUDIOLOGY CERTIFICATION or the sum of these costs for a full-time undergraduate
17 in-State resident student at the 4-year public institution of higher education within
18 the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland
19 University College and University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual
20 expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate.

21 (2) For a part-time student, the amount of an award may not exceed the
22 applicable cost of tuition and mandatory fees for a comparable undergraduate
23 in-State student at the 4-year public institution of higher education within the
24 University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University
25 College and University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for
26 a full-time resident undergraduate.

27 (f) (1) A nondegreed recipient may renew an award for 1 year if the
28 recipient:

29 (i) Remains an undergraduate student in an area of critical or
30 geographic shortage, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY, OR AUDIOLOGY; and

31 (ii) Maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
32 and advances in academic standing at least 1 year for each year for which an award
33 is renewed.

34 (2) A degreed recipient and a teacher, SPEECH LANGUAGE
35 PATHOLOGIST, OR AUDIOLOGIST recipient may renew an award for 1 year if that
36 recipient maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

37 (g) (1) The State Superintendent of Schools shall project annually the
38 number of vacancies for employment expected in each of the subsequent 5 years in
39 areas of critical or geographic shortage and the number of students expected to

1 graduate from programs qualifying them to teach in these fields during the same
2 period. The State Superintendent of Schools shall certify annually to the Office those
3 programs that continue to be areas of critical or geographic shortage as evidenced by
4 projected employment vacancies substantially exceeding projected qualified
5 graduates.

6 (2) In any year in which an area is determined by the State
7 Superintendent of Schools to no longer be an area of critical or geographic shortage,
8 the Office shall discontinue making new awards in that area.

9 (3) Deletion of any academic field as an area of critical or geographic
10 shortage does not:

11 (i) Terminate the right of existing recipients to renew awards
12 under § 18-704(d) of this subtitle; or

13 (ii) If the recipient continues to teach in a public school in this State
14 in that academic field, invoke the provisions of § 18-701(d)(1) of this subtitle or
15 disqualify the recipient under the provisions of § 18-701(d)(2) of this subtitle.

16 (h) Funds for the Teacher Education Tuition Assistance Program shall be as
17 provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the Governor.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2005.