
By: **Delegate Heller**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 21, 2005

CHAPTER _____

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 authorizing an area of critical shortage to include speech~~
 13 ~~language pathology or audiology services under the Sharon Christa McAuliffe~~
 14 ~~Memorial Teacher Education Award program in the Maryland Higher Education~~
 15 ~~Commission; defining certain terms; correcting a certain reference; and~~
 16 generally relating to the provision of grants for speech language pathology and
 17 audiology services.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 19 Article - Education
 20 Section 18-703(a)
 21 Annotated Code of Maryland
 22 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

1 **Article - Education**

2 18-703.

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

4 (2) "Area of critical shortage" means an academic field OR EDUCATIONAL
 5 SERVICE identified by the State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions
 6 of subsection ~~(H)~~ (G) of this section as having projected employment vacancies which
 7 substantially exceed projected qualified graduates.

8 (3) "Area of geographic shortage" means a geographic area of the State
 9 identified by the State Board of Education as less able than others in the State to
 10 satisfy the need for public school teachers in an academic field identified for at least
 11 3 years as an area of critical shortage.

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

14 (5) "EDUCATIONAL SERVICE" MEANS SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
 15 OR AUDIOLOGY SERVICES.

16 ~~(5)~~ (6) "Eligible institution" means an accredited college or university
 17 that has a program of undergraduate or graduate studies that would certify the
 18 recipient to teach in this State in an area of critical shortage and which is:

19 (i) Authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission;
 20 and

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

22 ~~(6)~~ (7) "Nondegreed recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance
 23 grant awarded under this section who does not possess an undergraduate or graduate
 24 degree in an area of critical shortage.

25 ~~(7)~~ (8) "Public school" means a school in the public elementary and
 26 secondary education system in this State.

27 ~~(8)~~ (9) "Service obligation" means to teach in the State in an area of
 28 geographic or critical shortage in a public school.

29 (10) "TEACH" INCLUDES PROVIDING AN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

30 (11) "TEACHER" INCLUDES AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES AN
 31 EDUCATIONAL SERVICE IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

32 ~~(9)~~ (12) "Teacher recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance
 33 grant awarded under this section employed or certified as a teacher in a field which is
 34 not an area of critical shortage.

1 ~~(10)~~ (13) "Tuition assistance" means any funds provided for the cost of
2 basic instructional charges, fees, room, board, or other related educational expenses.

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

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

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

9 ~~(II)~~ ~~PROVIDE SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY OR AUDIOLOGY~~
10 ~~SERVICES.~~

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

13 ~~(4)~~ ~~The State Board of Education may adopt rules and regulations to~~
14 ~~determine academic criteria for selection of tuition assistance recipients from eligible~~
15 ~~applicants.~~

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

17 ~~(1)~~ ~~Qualify as follows:~~

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

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

29 ~~(iii)~~ ~~Persons who are already teachers, SPEECH LANGUAGE~~
30 ~~PATHOLOGISTS, OR AUDIOLOGISTS shall:~~

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

34 ~~2.~~ ~~Enroll as a student in courses required for teacher~~
35 ~~certification in an academic area in which there is a critical or geographic shortage of~~
36 ~~teachers, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY CERTIFICATION, OR AUDIOLOGY~~
37 ~~CERTIFICATION; and~~

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

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

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

8 (ii) A degreed recipient shall enroll in or sign a letter of intent to
9 ~~enroll in courses leading to certification to teach in an area of critical or geographic~~
10 ~~shortage OR TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY OR~~
11 ~~AUDIOLOGY; or~~

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

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

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

19 (5) ~~Satisfy whatever other criteria the Office and the State Board of~~
20 ~~Education establish.~~

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

23 (e) (1) ~~For a full-time student, the annual amount of tuition assistance shall~~
24 ~~be equal to the cost of tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board, not to exceed the~~
25 ~~lesser of costs incurred for the program required for teacher certification in an area of~~
26 ~~critical or geographic shortage, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY CERTIFICATION, OR~~
27 ~~AUDIOLOGY CERTIFICATION or the sum of these costs for a full-time undergraduate~~
28 ~~in-State resident student at the 4-year public institution of higher education within~~
29 ~~the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland~~
30 ~~University College and University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual~~
31 ~~expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate.~~

32 (2) ~~For a part-time student, the amount of an award may not exceed the~~
33 ~~applicable cost of tuition and mandatory fees for a comparable undergraduate~~
34 ~~in-State student at the 4-year public institution of higher education within the~~
35 ~~University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University~~
36 ~~College and University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for~~
37 ~~a full-time resident undergraduate.~~

38 (f) (1) ~~A nondegreed recipient may renew an award for 1 year if the~~
39 ~~recipient:~~

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

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

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

9 (g) (1) The State Superintendent of Schools shall project annually the
10 number of vacancies for employment expected in each of the subsequent 5 years in
11 areas of critical or geographic shortage and the number of students expected to
12 graduate from programs qualifying them to teach in these fields during the same
13 period. The State Superintendent of Schools shall certify annually to the Office those
14 programs that continue to be areas of critical or geographic shortage as evidenced by
15 projected employment vacancies substantially exceeding projected qualified
16 graduates.

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

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

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

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

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

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