

HOUSE BILL 279

F2

71r1835

By: **Delegates Kaiser, Barkley, Cane, Donoghue, George, Gutierrez, Howard, Hubbard, Hucker, Kipke, Krebs, Kullen, Manno, Mizeur, Pena-Melnyk, Proctor, Riley, Ross, and Shewell**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2007

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 13, 2007

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grants –**
3 **Eligibility**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~specifying that a grant recipient under the Workforce Shortage~~
5 ~~Student Assistance grant program may be enrolled at an eligible institution~~
6 ~~during a fall, spring, or summer term; defining certain terms requiring the~~
7 Advisory Council on Workforce Shortage to make a certain recommendation to
8 the Maryland Higher Education Commission relating to a certain
9 determination; requiring a recipient of a Workforce Shortage Assistance grant
10 to earn a certain number of credit hours in an academic year; requiring the
11 Commission to distribute certain grant awards in certain amounts for a student
12 taking courses during a summer session; authorizing a certain student who is
13 enrolled in a certain program that requires a mandatory summer academic
14 session to receive an additional award in a certain amount; requiring a grant
15 recipient to repay certain funds to the Commission if the grant recipient does
16 not earn a certain minimum number of credit hours in a certain academic year;
17 prohibiting the Commission from designating new workforce shortage fields
18 under the program of Workforce Shortage Student Assistance grants unless the
19 Governor includes certain funds in the annual budget; requiring the

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 Commission to give priority under the program to existing workforce shortage
 2 fields unless certain contingencies are met; defining a certain term; making
 3 stylistic changes; and generally relating to the Workforce Shortage Student
 4 Assistance grant program.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

6 Article – Education

7 Section ~~18-708(a) and (h)~~ 18-708(a), (e)(3), (h), (i), and (l)(1)

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (2006 Replacement Volume)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

11 Article – Education

12 Section 18-708(b) and (e)(2)

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2006 Replacement Volume)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 18-708.

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

20 (2) “Advisory Council” means the Advisory Council on Workforce
 21 Shortage.

22 (3) “Eligible institution” means a public or private institution of higher
 23 education in this State that possesses a certificate of approval from the Commission.

24 (4) “Grant” means the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance grant.

25 ~~(5) “PART-TIME STUDENT” MEANS A STUDENT WHO MAINTAINS A~~
 26 ~~COURSE CREDIT LOAD OF BETWEEN 3 AND 6 CREDIT HOURS.~~

27 ~~(6) “STUDENT” INCLUDES:~~

28 ~~(i) A STUDENT IN AN UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL COURSE OF~~
 29 ~~STUDY;~~

1 ~~(H) A STUDENT IN A GRADUATE LEVEL COURSE OF STUDY;~~
2 ~~AND~~

3 ~~(H) A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY OF AN INSTITUTION OF~~
4 ~~HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE.~~

5 (5) “PUBLIC GOOD OR BENEFIT” MEANS SERVICE TO
6 LOW-INCOME OR UNDERSERVED RESIDENTS OR AREAS OF THE STATE IN AN
7 OCCUPATION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR OR IN AN ORGANIZATION, INSTITUTION,
8 ASSOCIATION, SOCIETY, OR CORPORATION THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION
9 UNDER § 501(C)(3) OR (4) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.

10 (b) There is a program of Workforce Shortage Student Assistance grants
11 under this section for students who pledge to work in fields of critical shortage in the
12 State on completion of their studies.

13 (e) (2) The Secretary shall appoint an Advisory Council on Workforce
14 Shortage to:

15 (i) Identify workforce shortage fields in the State; and

16 (ii) Recommend to the Commission:

17 1. Priority workforce shortage fields to be included in the
18 grant program; and

19 2. The removal of fields that in the Advisory Council’s
20 judgment no longer qualify as workforce shortage fields.

21 (3) In making recommendations to the Commission, the Advisory
22 Council shall:

23 (I) [consider] CONSIDER whether a workforce shortage field
24 provides a public good or benefit to the citizens of Maryland; AND

25 (II) ON DETERMINATION THAT A WORKFORCE SHORTAGE
26 FIELD PROVIDES A PUBLIC GOOD OR BENEFIT, GIVE PRIORITY TO THE
27 WORKFORCE SHORTAGE FIELD WHEN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
28 COMMISSION UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

29 (h) ~~(4)~~ A grant recipient;

1 (1) ~~may~~ **MAY** be enrolled at an eligible ~~institution;~~ **INSTITUTION**

2 ~~(I) [on]~~ **ON** a part-time or full-time basis; **AND**

3 ~~(II) DURING A FALL, SPRING, OR SUMMER TERM.~~

4 **(2) SHALL EARN AT LEAST 12 UNDERGRADUATE OR 9 GRADUATE**
5 **CREDIT HOURS IN EACH ACADEMIC YEAR, INCLUDING SUMMER SESSIONS;**

6 ~~(2) (3)~~ Except as provided in paragraph ~~(3)~~ **(4)** of this subsection, ~~a grant~~
7 ~~recipient~~ shall be an undergraduate student at an eligible institution; **AND**

8 ~~(3) A grant recipient may~~

9 **(4) MAY** be a graduate student if the Office determines that the
10 shortage field requires employees with a graduate level education.

11 (i) **(1) In this subsection, "cost of attendance" means the equivalent**
12 **annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate student at the 4-year**
13 **public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other**
14 **than the University of Maryland University College and University of Maryland,**
15 **Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate.**

16 **(2) Subject to [paragraph (3)] PARAGRAPHS (3), (4), AND (5) of this**
17 **subsection, the Commission shall establish in guidelines the annual grant awards**
18 **under this section.**

19 **(3) Annual grant awards shall be within the following ranges:**

20 (i) **For a part-time student attending a 2-year eligible**
21 **institution – \$1,000 and 12.5% of cost of attendance;**

22 (ii) **For a full-time student attending a 2-year eligible**
23 **institution – \$2,000 and 25% of cost of attendance;**

24 (iii) **For a part-time student attending a 4-year eligible**
25 **institution – \$2,000 and 25% of cost of attendance; and**

26 (iv) **For a full-time student attending a 4-year eligible**
27 **institution – \$4,000 and 50% of cost of attendance.**

1 **(4) FOR A STUDENT TAKING COURSES DURING A SUMMER**
2 **SESSION TO MEET THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS FOR FULL-TIME**
3 **OR PART-TIME STATUS, THE COMMISSION SHALL DISTRIBUTE GRANT AWARDS**
4 **TO THE STUDENT IN THE SPRING AND SUMMER SESSIONS IN AMOUNTS IT**
5 **DETERMINES TO BE APPROPRIATE.**

6 **(5) A STUDENT WHO IS ENROLLED IN AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM**
7 **THAT INCLUDES A MANDATORY SUMMER ACADEMIC SESSION AS PART OF THE**
8 **APPROVED CURRICULUM MAY RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL AWARD NOT TO EXCEED**
9 **\$1,000 PER CALENDAR YEAR.**

10 **(1) (1) A grant recipient shall repay the Commission the funds received as**
11 **set forth in § 18-112 of this title if the recipient does not:**

12 **(i) EARN AT LEAST 12 UNDERGRADUATE OR 9 GRADUATE**
13 **CREDIT HOURS IN EACH ACADEMIC YEAR IN WHICH THE STUDENT RECEIVES**
14 **ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING SUMMER SESSIONS;**

15 **(ii) Complete the specified degree, attain the licensure or**
16 **certification required, or fulfill other requirements as provided in this section; or**

17 **[(ii)] (iii) Perform the service obligation required under**
18 **subsection (k) of this section.**

19 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, unless the Governor**
20 **includes in the annual budget additional funds in excess of those budgeted for existing**
21 **workforce shortage fields, the Maryland Higher Education Commission may not**
22 **designate new workforce shortage fields under the program of Workforce Shortage**
23 **Student Assistance grants.**

24 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That unless data suggests**
25 **otherwise and until such a time that the Governor includes additional funds for**
26 **awards under new workforce shortage fields under the program of Workforce Shortage**
27 **Student Assistance grants, the Maryland Higher Education Commission shall give**
28 **priority under the program to existing workforce shortage fields.**

29 **SECTION ~~2~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take**
30 **effect June 1, 2007.**