

# HOUSE BILL 640

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By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2010

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians – Prince**  
3 **George's County Primary Care Physicians – Eligibility**

4 **PG 403–10**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain medical residents specializing in primary care  
6 in Prince George's County who agree to a certain service obligation as primary  
7 care physicians in Prince George's County to be eligible for loan assistance  
8 repayment under the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for  
9 Physicians; and generally relating to the eligibility of primary care physicians in  
10 Prince George's County for the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program  
11 for Physicians.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article – Education  
14 Section 18–2801, 18–2802, 18–2803, 18–2805, and 18–2806  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article – Education  
19 Section 18–2804  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Education**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 18-2801.

2 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (b) "Department" means the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

4 (c) "Education loan" means any loan that is obtained for tuition, educational  
5 expenses, or living expenses for undergraduate or graduate study leading to practice  
6 as a physician.

7 (d) "Fund" means the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program Fund.

8 (e) "Primary care" includes:

9 (1) Primary care;

10 (2) Family medicine;

11 (3) Internal medicine;

12 (4) Obstetrics;

13 (5) Pediatrics;

14 (6) Geriatrics;

15 (7) Emergency medicine; and

16 (8) Psychiatry.

17 (f) "Program" means the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for  
18 Physicians.

19 18-2802.

20 (a) (1) There is a Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program Fund in  
21 the State.

22 (2) The Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to §  
23 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

24 (3) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the  
25 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

26 (4) The Fund shall be invested and reinvested in the same manner as  
27 other State funds.

1 (5) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be paid into the Fund.

2 (b) The Fund consists of:

3 (1) Revenue generated through an increase, as approved by the Health  
4 Services Cost Review Commission, to the rate structure of all hospitals in accordance  
5 with § 19–211 of the Health – General Article; and

6 (2) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of  
7 the Fund.

8 (c) Expenditures from the Fund shall be made by an appropriation in the  
9 annual State budget or by an approved budget amendment as provided under § 7–209  
10 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

11 (d) The money in the Fund shall be used by the Office to administer the  
12 Program.

13 18–2803.

14 There is a Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians in the  
15 State.

16 18–2804.

17 (a) (1) In this section, “eligible field of employment” means employment  
18 by an organization, institution, association, society, or corporation that is exempt from  
19 taxation under § 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

20 (2) “Eligible field of employment” includes employment by the State or  
21 any local government in the State.

22 (b) The Office shall assist in the repayment with the funds transferred to the  
23 Office by the Comptroller under § 14–207(c)(2)(i) of the Health Occupations Article of  
24 the amount of education loans owed by a physician who:

25 (1) (i) Practices primary care in an eligible field of employment in  
26 a geographic area of the State that has been federally designated; [or]

27 (ii) Is a medical resident specializing in primary care who  
28 agrees to practice for at least 2 years as a primary care physician in an eligible field of  
29 employment in a geographic area of the State that has been federally designated; **OR**

30 **(III) IS A MEDICAL RESIDENT SPECIALIZING IN PRIMARY**  
31 **CARE IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY WHO AGREES TO PRACTICE FOR AT LEAST**

1 **2 YEARS AS A PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN IN AN ELIGIBLE FIELD OF**  
2 **EMPLOYMENT IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY; and**

3 (2) Meets any other requirements established by the Office, in  
4 consultation with the Department.

5 (c) Any unspent portions of the money that is transferred to the Office for  
6 use under this subtitle from the Board of Physicians Fund may not be transferred to or  
7 revert to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the Fund maintained by  
8 the Office to administer the Program.

9 18–2805.

10 (a) In addition to the assistance provided under § 18–2804 of this subtitle,  
11 the Office may, subject to the availability of money in the Fund, assist in the  
12 repayment of an education loan owed by a physician who:

13 (1) Practices a medical specialty that has been identified by the  
14 Department as being in shortage in the geographic area of the State where the  
15 physician practices that specialty; and

16 (2) Commits to practicing in the area for a period of time determined  
17 by the Office.

18 (b) The Office shall prioritize funding for the repayment of education loans  
19 through the Program in the following order:

20 (1) Physicians that meet the requirements under § 18–2804(b) of this  
21 subtitle;

22 (2) Physicians practicing primary care in a geographic area where the  
23 Department has identified a shortage of primary care physicians; and

24 (3) Physicians practicing a medical specialty other than primary care  
25 in a geographic area where the Department has identified a shortage of that specialty.

26 18–2806.

27 The Office, in collaboration with the Department, shall adopt regulations to  
28 implement the provisions of this subtitle, including:

29 (1) Establishing the maximum number of participants in the Program  
30 each year in each priority area described under § 18–2805 of this subtitle; and

31 (2) Establishing the minimum and maximum amount of a loan  
32 awarded under this subtitle in each priority area described under § 18–2805 of this  
33 subtitle.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2    July 1, 2010.