

HOUSE BILL 758

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11r2409

By: Delegates Mitchell, Alston, Barve, Branch, Clippinger, Cullison, Frick, Haynes, A. Kelly, A. Miller, Oaks, Rosenberg, Stukes, Summers, F. Turner, Valentino-Smith, Walker, and Washington

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2011

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 28, 2011

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Funding a Green Technology, Life Science, and Health**
3 **Information Technology Loan Assistance Repayment Program**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Funding a Green Technology, Life
5 Science, and Health Information Technology Loan Assistance Repayment
6 Program; requiring the Office of Student Financial Assistance to assist in the
7 repayment of any federal or State higher education loan owed by a resident of
8 the State who meets certain requirements; specifying that certain loan
9 assistance may only be used to repay certain higher education loans; specifying
10 the amount of assistance that may be awarded; specifying that an individual
11 awarded assistance may only receive assistance for a certain number of years;
12 specifying that the assistance awarded to an individual, when combined with
13 certain other assistance, may not exceed a certain amount; requiring the Office
14 to adopt certain regulations; requiring that funds for the Program be provided
15 on an annual basis in the State budget; requiring the Office to submit a certain
16 report on or before a certain date each year to the Governor and certain
17 committees of the General Assembly; defining certain terms; providing for the
18 members of the Task Force; providing for the designation of a chair of the Task
19 Force; requiring the Governor's Workforce Investment Board to provide staff for
20 the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
21 compensation; providing that a member of the Task Force may receive
22 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make
23 certain recommendations on funding a green technology, life science, and health

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 information technology loan assistance repayment program; requiring the Task
 2 Force to report its findings and recommendations to certain committees of the
 3 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of
 4 this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on Funding a Green
 5 Technology, Life Science, and Health Information Technology Loan Assistance
 6 Repayment Program.

7 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~
 8 ~~Article — Education~~
 9 ~~Section 18-101(e)~~
 10 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
 11 ~~(2008 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)~~

12 ~~BY adding to~~
 13 ~~Article — Education~~
 14 ~~Section 18-2901 through 18-2906 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 29,~~
 15 ~~Green Technology, Life Science, and Health Information Technology Loan~~
 16 ~~Assistance Repayment Program”~~
 17 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
 18 ~~(2008 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)~~

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

21 (a) There is a Task Force on Funding a Green Technology, Life Science, and
 22 Health Information Technology Loan Assistance Repayment Program.

23 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

24 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
 25 of the Senate;

26 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
 27 the House;

28 (3) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the
 29 Secretary’s designee;

30 (4) one member of the Governor’s Workforce Investment Board,
 31 appointed by the Chair of the Board;

32 (5) one representative of community colleges in the State, appointed
 33 by the Governor;

34 (6) one representative of the biotechnology industry, appointed by the
 35 Governor;

1 (7) one representative from the Maryland Clean Energy Center
2 appointed by the Governor;

3 (8) one representative from the U.S. Green Building Council;
4 Maryland Chapter, appointed by the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Council;

5 (9) one representative of the Maryland State and District of Columbia
6 AFL-CIO, appointed by the President of the Union; and

7 (10) one representative of the SEIU Maryland and District of Columbia
8 State Council, appointed by the President of the Council.

9 (c) The Task Force members shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

10 (d) The Governor's Workforce Investment Board shall provide staff for the
11 Task Force.

12 (e) A member of the Task Force:

13 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

14 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
15 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

16 (f) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations on sources of
17 funding for a green technology, life science, and health information technology loan
18 assistance repayment program that assists graduates who earned a degree in a field
19 relating to green technology, life science, or health information technology from an
20 institution of higher education in the State in the repayment of any federal or State
21 higher education loan.

22 (g) On or before December 31, 2011, the Task Force shall report its findings
23 and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article,
24 to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the
25 House Committee on Ways and Means.

26 ~~Article — Education~~

27 ~~18-101.~~

28 ~~(e) "Office" means the Office of Student Financial Assistance.~~

29 ~~SUBTITLE 29. GREEN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE, AND HEALTH~~
30 ~~INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM.~~

31 ~~18-2901.~~

1 ~~(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS~~
2 ~~INDICATED.~~

3 ~~(B) "GREEN TECHNOLOGY" MEANS TECHNOLOGY THAT:~~

4 ~~(1) PROMOTES CLEAN ENERGY, RENEWABLE ENERGY, OR~~
5 ~~ENERGY EFFICIENCY;~~

6 ~~(2) REDUCES GREENHOUSE GASES OR CARBON EMISSIONS; OR~~

7 ~~(3) INVOLVES THE INVENTION, DESIGN, AND APPLICATION OF~~
8 ~~CHEMICAL PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES TO ELIMINATE THE USE AND~~
9 ~~GENERATION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.~~

10 ~~(C) "HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY" MEANS THE CREATION,~~
11 ~~EXECUTION, OR IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC DATA SYSTEMS THAT~~
12 ~~RECORD OR TRANSMIT MEDICAL OR HEALTH INFORMATION.~~

13 ~~(D) "LIFE SCIENCE" MEANS THE STUDY OF GENES, CELLS, TISSUES, AND~~
14 ~~CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL STRUCTURES OF LIVING ORGANISMS.~~

15 ~~(E) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE GREEN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE, AND~~
16 ~~HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT~~
17 ~~PROGRAM.~~

18 ~~18-2902.~~

19 ~~(A) THERE IS A GREEN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE, AND HEALTH~~
20 ~~INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM.~~

21 ~~(B) THE OFFICE SHALL ASSIST IN THE REPAYMENT OF ANY FEDERAL~~
22 ~~OR STATE HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN OWED BY A RESIDENT OF THE STATE:~~

23 ~~(1) (i) WHO, ON OR AFTER MAY 1, 2010, RECEIVED A~~
24 ~~BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IN A FIELD RELATING TO~~
25 ~~GREEN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE, OR HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY~~
26 ~~FROM A SCHOOL LOCATED IN THE STATE;~~

27 ~~(ii) WHO HAS BEEN EMPLOYED IN THE STATE IN A JOB~~
28 ~~RELATING TO GREEN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE, OR HEALTH INFORMATION~~
29 ~~TECHNOLOGY FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS AFTER GRADUATION; AND~~

30 ~~(iii) WHOSE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION, AS~~
31 ~~DETERMINED BY THE FEDERAL FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT~~

~~1 AID FOR THE MOST RECENT FULL ACADEMIC YEAR DOES NOT EXCEED \$35,000;~~
~~2 OR~~

~~3 (2) (i) WHO GRADUATED FROM SECONDARY SCHOOL BEFORE~~
~~4 JULY 1, 2008;~~

~~5 (ii) WHO IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD;~~

~~6 (iii) WHO RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE RELATING TO GREEN~~
~~7 TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE, OR HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FROM~~
~~8 AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FROM A SCHOOL LOCATED IN THE~~
~~9 STATE;~~

~~10 (iv) 1. WHO IS UNEMPLOYED;~~

~~11 2. WHO HAS RECEIVED NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF~~
~~12 EMPLOYMENT; OR~~

~~13 3. WHO IS EMPLOYED WITH A GROSS ANNUAL~~
~~14 FAMILY INCOME OF LESS THAN \$40,000; AND~~

~~15 (v) WHO WAS NOT ENROLLED AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT AT~~
~~16 AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION BEFORE JULY 1, 2010.~~
~~17 18 2903.~~

~~18 (A) ASSISTANCE RECEIVED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY ONLY BE USED~~
~~19 TO REPAY FEDERAL OR STATE HIGHER EDUCATION LOANS.~~

~~20 (B) (1) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, AN~~
~~21 INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM UNDER § 18 2902(B)(1) OF~~
~~22 THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE AWARDED YEARLY ASSISTANCE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO~~
~~23 EXCEED \$2,500 OR 5% OF THE AMOUNT OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S FEDERAL OR~~
~~24 STATE EDUCATIONAL LOANS, WHICHEVER IS LESS.~~

~~25 (2) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES ASSISTANCE UNDER~~
~~26 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE AWARDED ASSISTANCE:~~

~~27 (i) FOR NO MORE THAN 4 YEARS IF THE INDIVIDUAL~~
~~28 RECEIVED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE; OR~~

~~29 (ii) FOR NO MORE THAN 2 YEARS IF THE INDIVIDUAL~~
~~30 RECEIVED AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE.~~

1 ~~(C) THE ASSISTANCE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL IS AWARDED UNDER~~
2 ~~SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, WHEN COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER STATE~~
3 ~~LOAN ASSISTANCE, MAY NOT EXCEED:~~

4 ~~(1) \$10,000 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVED A BACHELOR'S~~
5 ~~DEGREE; OR~~

6 ~~(2) \$5,000 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVED AN ASSOCIATE'S~~
7 ~~DEGREE.~~

8 ~~(D) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM UNDER §~~
9 ~~18-2902(B)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE AWARDED ASSISTANCE IN THE~~
10 ~~AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE COST OF EARNING THE CERTIFICATE BUT NO MORE~~
11 ~~THAN \$250.~~

12 ~~18-2904.~~

13 ~~THE OFFICE SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE.~~

14 ~~18-2905.~~

15 ~~FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE PROVIDED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS IN~~
16 ~~THE STATE BUDGET.~~

17 ~~18-2906.~~

18 ~~ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL REPORT~~
19 ~~TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE~~
20 ~~GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND~~
21 ~~ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS~~
22 ~~AND MEANS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.~~

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October ~~June~~ 1, 2011. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end
25 of December 31, 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
26 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.