HOUSE BILL 596

F16lr2220 By: Delegates Flanagan, Adams, Cullison, Gutierrez, Kelly, Kittleman, Mautz, Metzgar, Miele, Morhaim, Pena-Melnyk, Szeliga, and West Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2016 Assigned to: Ways and Means Committee Report: Favorable House action: Adopted Read second time: March 14, 2016 CHAPTER AN ACT concerning State Department of Education - Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program - Age of **Eligibility** FOR the purpose of altering the age of eligibility to participate in the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program in the State Department of Education; and generally relating to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program for eligible children. BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Education Section 8-601 and 8-602 Annotated Code of Maryland (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement) BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments, Article – Education Section 8-603 and 8-604 Annotated Code of Maryland (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement) SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

<u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.

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Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Article - Education

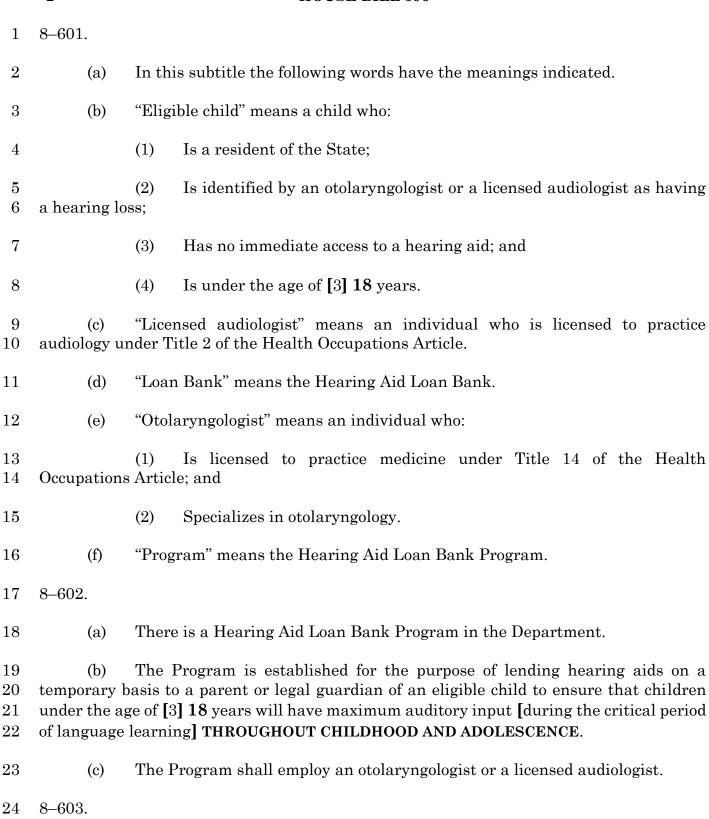


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(a)

(b)



There is a permanent Hearing Aid Loan Bank in the Department.

The Program shall provide and maintain:

1 A pool of hearing aids in the Loan Bank to lend to a parent or legal (1) 2 guardian of an eligible child; 3 (2)Testing and programming equipment for hearing aids in the Loan Bank: and 4 5 (3) Supplies for repair and reconditioning of hearing aids in the Loan Bank. 6 8-604. 7 The Program shall lend a suitable hearing aid to a parent or legal guardian of 8 an eligible child on receipt of: 9 A prescription from an otolaryngologist or a licensed audiologist; and (1)10 (2) Any documents required by the Program to prove that the child is an 11 eligible child. 12 Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the loan period (b) shall be for not more than 6 months. 13 14 The Program may extend the original loan period for additional 15 3-month periods if, prior to each extension, the Program determines that: 16 The child does not have immediate access to another hearing aid 17 under Medicaid, the Maryland Children's Health Program, or private health insurance; 18 (ii) The child's parent or legal guardian currently does not have the 19 financial means to obtain immediate access to another hearing aid; and 20 (iii) The child's parent or legal guardian is making reasonable efforts to obtain access to another hearing aid. 2122 A parent or legal guardian who borrows a hearing aid for an eligible child (c) shall: 23 24(1) Be the custodian of the hearing aid; 25 (2)Return the hearing aid immediately to the Loan Bank on the expiration 26 of the loan period or receipt of a suitable permanent hearing aid, whichever occurs first; 27 (3)Be responsible for the proper care and use of the hearing aid; 28(4) Be responsible for any damage to or loss of the hearing aid; and

Sign a written agreement provided by the State Superintendent that

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(5)

states the term and conditions of the loan.

	(d) The Program shall ensure that the eligible child's otolaryngologist or license audiologist instructs the parent or legal guardian about the proper care and use of a hearing aid provided under the Program.
1	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 2016.
P	Approved:
_	Governor.
_	Speaker of the House of Delegates.
_	President of the Senate.