

# SENATE BILL 501

J2

(0lr1620)

## ENROLLED BILL

— *Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and  
Taxation/Appropriations* —

Introduced by **Senators Griffith and Hershey**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

### CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician**  
3 **Assistants – Administration and Funding**

4 FOR the purpose of transferring oversight of the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment  
5 Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants from the Office of Student  
6 Financial Assistance within the Maryland Higher Education Commission to the  
7 Maryland Department of Health; requiring the Department, on or before a certain  
8 date each year, to submit a certain report to the General Assembly; altering certain  
9 provisions of law related to funding for the Program; requiring the Comptroller, in  
10 certain fiscal years, to distribute certain fees in a certain manner for a certain  
11 purpose if the Governor does not include a certain amount of funding for the Program  
12 in the State budget; requiring the Comptroller to distribute certain fees to the Board  
13 of Physicians Fund if the Governor includes in the State budget a certain amount of  
14 funding for the Program; requiring the Comptroller to distribute certain fees to the

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#### 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.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.*



1 Board of Physicians Fund under certain circumstances; requiring the Department to  
 2 convene a certain workgroup; providing for the composition of the workgroup;  
 3 requiring the workgroup to consult with the Department of Legislative Services  
 4 when developing certain recommendations; providing for the duties of the  
 5 workgroup; requiring the workgroup to submit a certain ~~report~~ reports to the  
 6 General Assembly on or before a certain ~~date~~ dates; altering the definition of a  
 7 certain term; making conforming changes; repealing certain obsolete provisions of  
 8 law; and generally relating to the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program  
 9 for Physicians and Physician Assistants.

10 BY transferring

11 Article – Education

12 Section 18–2801 through 18–2806, respectively, and the subtitle “Subtitle 28.  
 13 Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician  
 14 Assistants”

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

17 to be

18 Article – Health – General

19 Section 24–1701 through 24–1706, respectively, and the subtitle “Subtitle 17.  
 20 Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician  
 21 Assistants”

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2019 Replacement Volume)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

25 Article – Health – General

26 Section 24–1701, ~~24–1702(b)(1)~~ 24–1702(b), 24–1704, 24–1705, and 24–1706

27 Annotated Code of Maryland

28 (2019 Replacement Volume)

29 (As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

30 BY adding to

31 Article – Health – General

32 Section 24–1707

33 Annotated Code of Maryland

34 (2019 Replacement Volume)

35 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

36 Article – Health Occupations

37 Section 14–207 and 15–206(c)

38 Annotated Code of Maryland

39 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

40 Preamble

41 WHEREAS, One in five citizens in Maryland live in rural or medically underserved

1 communities and face challenges in accessing health care services because only 10% of  
2 physicians choose to work in rural or medically underserved communities; and

3 WHEREAS, A report prepared on behalf of the Association of American Medical  
4 Colleges projects a total physician shortfall of between 40,800 and 104,900 physicians by  
5 2030; and

6 WHEREAS, The 2017 Report of the Workgroup on Rural Health Delivery to the  
7 Maryland Health Care Commission focused on expanding the health care workforce as one  
8 of its priorities, recommending tax credits, loan or grant opportunities to incentivize  
9 physicians, medical students, and residents, and streamlining and expanding the Loan  
10 Assistance Repayment Program (LARP) by centralizing oversight of the program; and

11 WHEREAS, Emerging evidence demonstrates that scholarship and loan repayment  
12 programs are effective in achieving long-term retention of participants in the communities  
13 they serve; and

14 WHEREAS, Based on a retention study conducted by the Maryland Department of  
15 Health's Office of Workforce Development in 2017, 83% of health care providers agreed to  
16 stay in Maryland or at their current practice site after their obligation under LARP was  
17 completed; and

18 WHEREAS, The funding stream for LARP has been reduced over the last 5 years at  
19 a time when over 350 health care providers have applied for funding and over 100 have  
20 been denied in fiscal years 2019 and 2020 due to lack of funding, decreasing the availability  
21 of specialty providers in medically underserved areas throughout Maryland; now, therefore,

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
23 That Section(s) 18–2801 through 18–2806, respectively, and the subtitle “Subtitle 28.  
24 Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants”  
25 of Article – Education of the Annotated Code of Maryland be transferred to be Section(s)  
26 24–1701 through 24–1706, respectively, and the subtitle “Subtitle 17. Maryland Loan  
27 Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants” of Article –  
28 Health – General of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
30 as follows:

31 **Article – Health – General**

32 24–1701.

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

34 (b) [“Department” means the Maryland Department of Health.

35 (c)] “Education loan” means any loan that is obtained for tuition, educational

1 expenses, or living expenses for undergraduate or graduate study leading to practice as a  
2 physician or physician assistant.

3 [(d)] (C) “Fund” means the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program  
4 Fund.

5 [(e)] (D) “Primary care” includes:

- 6 (1) Primary care;
- 7 (2) Family medicine;
- 8 (3) Internal medicine;
- 9 (4) Obstetrics;
- 10 (5) Pediatrics;
- 11 (6) Geriatrics;
- 12 (7) Emergency medicine;
- 13 (8) Women’s health; ~~and~~
- 14 (9) Psychiatry; AND

15 **(10) PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE.**

16 [(f)] (E) “Program” means the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program  
17 for Physicians and Physician Assistants.

18 24–1702.

19 (b) The Fund consists of:

20 (1) Revenue generated through ~~an increase, as approved by the Health~~  
21 ~~Services Cost Review Commission, to the rate structure of all hospitals in accordance with~~  
22 ~~§ 19-211 of [the Health — General Article]~~ **THIS ARTICLE A PERMANENT FUNDING**  
23 **STRUCTURE RECOMMENDED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY A STAKEHOLDER**  
24 **WORKGROUP CONVENED BY THE DEPARTMENT;** and

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

27 24–1704.

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

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

6 (b) The [Office] DEPARTMENT shall assist in the repayment with the funds  
7 transferred to the [Office] DEPARTMENT by the Comptroller under § [14–207(d)(2)]  
8 **14–207(D)** of the Health Occupations Article of the amount of education loans owed by a  
9 physician or physician assistant who:

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

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

15 (2) Meets any other requirements established by the [Office, in  
16 consultation with the] Department.

17 (c) Any unspent portions of the money that is transferred to the [Office]  
18 DEPARTMENT for use under this subtitle from the Board of Physicians Fund may not be  
19 transferred to or revert to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the Fund  
20 maintained by the [Office] DEPARTMENT to administer the Program.

21 24–1705.

22 (a) In addition to the assistance provided under § [18–2804] **24–1704** of this  
23 subtitle, the [Office] DEPARTMENT may, subject to the availability of money in the Fund,  
24 assist in the repayment of an education loan owed by a physician or physician assistant  
25 who:

26 (1) Practices a medical specialty that has been identified by the  
27 Department as being in shortage in the geographic area of the State where the physician  
28 or physician assistant practices that specialty; and

29 (2) Commits to practicing in the area for a period of time determined by  
30 the [Office] DEPARTMENT.

31 (b) The [Office] DEPARTMENT shall prioritize funding for the repayment of  
32 education loans through the Program in the following order:

33 (1) Physicians and physician assistants that meet the requirements under  
34 § [18–2804(b)] **24–1704(B)** of this subtitle;

1 (2) Physicians and physician assistants practicing primary care in a  
2 geographic area where the Department has identified a shortage of primary care physicians  
3 or physician assistants; and

4 (3) Physicians and physician assistants practicing a medical specialty  
5 other than primary care in a geographic area where the Department has identified a  
6 shortage of that specialty.

7 24-1706.

8 The [Office, in collaboration with the] Department[,] shall adopt regulations to  
9 implement the provisions of this subtitle, including:

10 (1) Establishing the maximum number of participants in the Program each  
11 year in each priority area described under § [18-2805] **24-1705** of this subtitle; and

12 (2) Establishing the minimum and maximum amount of loan repayment  
13 assistance awarded under this subtitle in each priority area described under § [18-2805]  
14 **24-1705** of this subtitle.

15 **24-1707.**

16 **ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2021, AND EACH OCTOBER 1 THEREAFTER, THE**  
17 **DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
18 **§ 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON:**

19 **(1) THE ELIGIBLE PHYSICIANS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, AND**  
20 **MEDICAL RESIDENTS WHO APPLIED FOR THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING INFORMATION**  
21 **ON:**

22 **(I) THE SPECIALTY OF THE PHYSICIAN, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT,**  
23 **OR MEDICAL RESIDENT;**

24 **(II) THE TYPE AND LOCATION OF THE SITE IN WHICH THE**  
25 **PHYSICIAN, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, OR MEDICAL RESIDENT PROVIDED SERVICES;**  
26 **AND**

27 **(III) THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED BY THE PHYSICIAN,**  
28 **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, OR MEDICAL RESIDENT; AND**

29 **(2) THE PHYSICIANS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, AND MEDICAL**  
30 **RESIDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON:**

1                   **(I) THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO EACH**  
2 **PARTICIPANT;**

3                   **(II) THE SPECIALTY OF THE PARTICIPANT;**

4                   **(III) THE TYPE AND LOCATION OF THE SITE IN WHICH THE**  
5 **PARTICIPANT PROVIDED SERVICES; AND**

6                   **(IV) THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED BY THE PARTICIPANT.**

7   **Article – Health Occupations**

8 14–207.

9           (a) There is a Board of Physicians Fund.

10           (b) (1) The Board may set reasonable fees for the issuance and renewal of  
11 licenses and its other services.

12                   (2) The fees charged shall be set so as to approximate the cost of  
13 maintaining the Board, including the cost of providing a rehabilitation program for  
14 physicians under § 14–401.1(g) of this title.

15                   (3) Funds to cover the compensation and expenses of the Board members  
16 shall be generated by fees set under this section.

17           (c) The Board shall pay all fees collected under the provisions of this title to the  
18 Comptroller of the State.

19           (d) (1) [In fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018, if the Governor does not  
20 include in the State budget at least \$550,000 for the operation of the Maryland Loan  
21 Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants under Title 18,  
22 Subtitle 28 of the Education Article, as administered by the Maryland Higher Education  
23 Commission, the Comptroller shall distribute:

24                   (i) \$550,000 of the fees received from the Board to the Office of  
25 Student Financial Assistance to be used to make grants under the Maryland Loan  
26 Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants under Title 18,  
27 Subtitle 28 of the Education Article to physicians and physician assistants engaged in  
28 primary care or to medical residents specializing in primary care who agree to practice for  
29 at least 2 years as primary care physicians in a geographic area of the State that has been  
30 designated by the Secretary of Health as being medically underserved; and

31                   (ii) The balance of the fees to the Board of Physicians Fund.

32                   (2) In EACH OF fiscal [year] YEARS 2019 [and each fiscal year thereafter]

1 **THROUGH 2021**, if the Governor does not include in the State budget at least \$400,000 for  
 2 the operation of the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and  
 3 Physician Assistants under [Title 18, Subtitle 28 of the Education Article] **TITLE 24,**  
 4 **SUBTITLE 17 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE**, as administered by the [Maryland  
 5 Higher Education Commission] **DEPARTMENT**, the Comptroller shall distribute:

6 (i) \$400,000 of the fees received from the Board to the [Office of  
 7 Student Financial Assistance] **DEPARTMENT** to be used to make grants under the  
 8 Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants  
 9 under [Title 18, Subtitle 28 of the Education Article] **TITLE 24, SUBTITLE 17 OF THE**  
 10 **HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE** to physicians and physician assistants engaged in primary  
 11 care or to medical residents specializing in primary care who agree to practice for at least  
 12 2 years as primary care physicians in a geographic area of the State that has been  
 13 designated by the Secretary [of Health] as being medically underserved; and

14 (ii) The balance of the fees to the Board of Physicians Fund.

15 **(2) IN FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER EACH**  
 16 **OF FISCAL YEARS YEAR 2022 AND 2023**, IF THE GOVERNOR DOES NOT INCLUDE IN  
 17 THE STATE BUDGET AT LEAST \$1,000,000 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MARYLAND  
 18 LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR PHYSICIANS AND PHYSICIAN  
 19 ASSISTANTS UNDER TITLE 24, SUBTITLE 17 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE,  
 20 AS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE COMPTROLLER SHALL DISTRIBUTE:

21 **(I) \$1,000,000 OF THE FEES RECEIVED FROM THE BOARD TO**  
 22 **THE DEPARTMENT TO BE USED TO MAKE GRANTS UNDER THE MARYLAND LOAN**  
 23 **ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR PHYSICIANS AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**  
 24 **UNDER TITLE 24, SUBTITLE 17 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE TO**  
 25 **PHYSICIANS AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS ENGAGED IN PRIMARY CARE OR TO**  
 26 **MEDICAL RESIDENTS SPECIALIZING IN PRIMARY CARE WHO AGREE TO PRACTICE**  
 27 **FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS AS PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS IN A GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF**  
 28 **THE STATE THAT HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY AS BEING MEDICALLY**  
 29 **UNDERSERVED; AND**

30 **(II) THE BALANCE OF THE FEES TO THE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS**  
 31 **FUND.**

32 **(3) IN FISCAL YEAR ~~2024~~ 2023 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER,**  
 33 **IF THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT IMPLEMENT A PERMANENT FUNDING STRUCTURE**  
 34 **UNDER § 24-1702(B)(1) OF THIS SUBTITLE AND THE GOVERNOR DOES NOT INCLUDE**  
 35 **IN THE STATE BUDGET AT LEAST \$400,000 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MARYLAND**  
 36 **LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR PHYSICIANS AND PHYSICIAN**  
 37 **ASSISTANTS UNDER TITLE 24, SUBTITLE 17 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE,**  
 38 **AS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE COMPTROLLER SHALL DISTRIBUTE:**



1                   **(I) \$400,000 OF THE FEES RECEIVED FROM THE BOARD TO THE**  
2 **DEPARTMENT TO BE USED TO MAKE GRANTS UNDER THE MARYLAND LOAN**  
3 **ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR PHYSICIANS AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**  
4 **UNDER TITLE 24, SUBTITLE 17 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE TO**  
5 **PHYSICIANS AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS ENGAGED IN PRIMARY CARE OR TO**  
6 **MEDICAL RESIDENTS SPECIALIZING IN PRIMARY CARE WHO AGREE TO PRACTICE**  
7 **FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS AS PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS IN A GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF**  
8 **THE STATE THAT HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY AS BEING MEDICALLY**  
9 **UNDERSERVED; AND**

10                   **(II) THE BALANCE OF THE FEES TO THE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS**  
11 **FUND.**

12                   ~~(3)~~ **(4)** If the Governor includes in the State budget at least the amount  
13 specified in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection for the operation of the Maryland Loan  
14 Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants under [Title 18,  
15 Subtitle 28 of the Education Article] **TITLE 24, SUBTITLE 17 OF THE HEALTH –**  
16 **GENERAL ARTICLE**, as administered by the [Maryland Higher Education Commission]  
17 **DEPARTMENT**, the Comptroller shall distribute the fees to the Board of Physicians Fund.

18                   (e) (1) The Fund shall be used exclusively to cover the actual documented  
19 direct and indirect costs of fulfilling the statutory and regulatory duties of the Board as  
20 provided by the provisions of this title.

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

23                   (ii) Any unspent portions of the Fund may not be transferred or  
24 revert to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the Fund to be used for the  
25 purposes specified in this title.

26                   (3) Interest or other income earned on the investment of moneys in the  
27 Fund shall be paid into the Fund.

28                   (4) No other State money may be used to support the Fund.

29                   (f) (1) In addition to the requirements of subsection (e) of this section, the  
30 Board shall fund the budget of the Physician Rehabilitation Program with fees set,  
31 collected, and distributed to the Fund under this title.

32                   (2) After review and approval by the Board of a budget submitted by the  
33 Physician Rehabilitation Program, the Board may allocate moneys from the Fund to the  
34 Physician Rehabilitation Program.

1 (g) (1) The chair of the Board or the designee of the chair shall administer the  
2 Fund.

3 (2) Moneys in the Fund may be expended only for any lawful purpose  
4 authorized by the provisions of this title.

5 (h) The Legislative Auditor shall audit the accounts and transactions of the Fund  
6 as provided in § 2-1220 of the State Government Article.

7 15-206.

8 (c) (1) In fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018, if the Governor does not include  
9 in the State budget at least \$550,000 for the operation of the Maryland Loan Assistance  
10 Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants under [Title 18, Subtitle 28  
11 of the Education Article] **TITLE 24, SUBTITLE 17 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL**  
12 **ARTICLE**, as administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the  
13 Comptroller shall distribute:

14 (i) \$550,000 of the fees received from the Board to the Office of  
15 Student Financial Assistance to be used to make grants under the Maryland Loan  
16 Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants under [Title 18,  
17 Subtitle 28 of the Education Article] **TITLE 24, SUBTITLE 17 OF THE HEALTH –**  
18 **GENERAL ARTICLE** to physicians and physician assistants engaged in primary care or to  
19 medical residents specializing in primary care who agree to practice for at least 2 years as  
20 primary care physicians in a geographic area of the State that has been designated by the  
21 Secretary [of Health] as being medically underserved; and

22 (ii) The balance of the fees to the Board of Physicians Fund.

23 (2) In fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter, if the Governor does  
24 not include in the State budget at least \$400,000 for the operation of the Maryland Loan  
25 Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants under [Title 18,  
26 Subtitle 28 of the Education Article] **TITLE 24, SUBTITLE 17 OF THE HEALTH –**  
27 **GENERAL ARTICLE**, as administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the  
28 Comptroller shall distribute:

29 (i) \$400,000 of the fees received from the Board to the Office of  
30 Student Financial Assistance to be used to make grants under the Maryland Loan  
31 Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants under [Title 18,  
32 Subtitle 28 of the Education Article] **TITLE 24, SUBTITLE 17 OF THE HEALTH –**  
33 **GENERAL ARTICLE** to physicians and physician assistants engaged in primary care or to  
34 medical residents specializing in primary care who agree to practice for at least 2 years as  
35 primary care physicians in a geographic area of the State that has been designated by the  
36 Secretary [of Health] as being medically underserved; and

37 (ii) The balance of the fees to the Board of Physicians Fund.

1 (3) If the Governor includes in the State budget at least the amount  
2 specified in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection for the operation of the Maryland Loan  
3 Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants under [Title 18,  
4 Subtitle 28 of the Education Article] **TITLE 24, SUBTITLE 17 OF THE HEALTH –**  
5 **GENERAL ARTICLE**, as administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the  
6 Comptroller shall distribute the fees to the Board of Physicians Fund.

7 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

8 (a) The Maryland Department of Health shall convene a stakeholder workgroup  
9 to examine how the State can implement a program within or in addition to the Maryland  
10 Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants to further  
11 incentivize medical students to practice in health professional shortage areas and medically  
12 underserved areas in the State.

13 (b) The workgroup shall consist of the following members:

14 (1) the Chair of the Health Services Cost Review Commission, or the  
15 Chair's designee;

16 (2) the Chair of the Health Care Commission, or the Chair's designee;

17 (3) the President of the Maryland Hospital Association, or the President's  
18 designee;

19 (4) the Dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, or the  
20 Dean's designee;

21 (5) the Dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, or the Dean's  
22 designee;

23 (6) the President of MedChi, or the President's designee;

24 (7) one representative of the Office of Primary Care;

25 (8) one representative of the State Board of Physicians;

26 (9) one representative of the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants;

27 and

28 (10) any other members as determined by the Secretary of Health.

29 (c) The workgroup shall consult with the Department of Legislative Services  
30 when developing its recommendations.

1 ~~(b)~~ (d) The workgroup shall:

2 (1) review medical school student debt experienced in the United States  
3 and in Maryland;

4 (2) ~~examine and recommend state-assisted tuition reduction options based~~  
5 ~~on a comparison of programs available in other states; and~~ other models for physician  
6 recruitment and retention that operate in other states, including how these models are  
7 funded and how to improve the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program to ensure  
8 that the Program is competitive with other states;

9 (3) examine and recommend methods to incentivize medical students to  
10 commit to practicing in medically underserved areas in the State before entering a  
11 residency program or on graduation from medical school; and

12 (4) investigate the availability of other federal grants to further expand  
13 loan repayment and loan forgiveness for other health professionals in Maryland.

14 ~~(e)~~ (e) (1) On or before December 1, 2020, the workgroup shall ~~report~~ submit an  
15 interim report of its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the  
16 State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

17 (2) On or before December 1, 2021, the workgroup shall submit a final  
18 report of its findings and recommendations, including recommendations on the structure  
19 of a permanent advisory council and a permanent funding structure for the Maryland Loan  
20 Assistance Repayment Program, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government  
21 Article, to the General Assembly.

22 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
23 1, 2020.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.