

SENATE BILL 626

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2lr2555
CF 2lr3103

By: **Senators Griffith, Elfreth, Kelley, Guzzone, Lam, Jackson, Washington, Hettleman, King, Benson, Rosapepe, and Pinsky**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

4 FOR the purpose of clarifying that part–time physicians and physician assistants are
5 eligible for participation in the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for
6 Physicians and Physician Assistants; authorizing the Maryland Department of
7 Health to establish prorated loan repayment assistance for part–time physicians and
8 physician assistants; establishing the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment
9 Program Advisory Council for Physicians and Physician Assistants to assist the
10 Department in the administration of the Program; and generally relating to the
11 Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician
12 Assistants.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Health – General
15 Section 24–1703
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Health – General
20 Section 24–1704
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

23 BY adding to
24 Article – Health – General
25 Section 24–1708
26 Annotated Code of Maryland
27 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Health – General**

4 24–1703.

5 There is a Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and
6 Physician Assistants in the State.

7 24–1704.

8 (a) (1) In this section[, “eligible] **THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**
9 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

10 **(2) (I) “ELIGIBLE field of employment”** means employment by an
11 organization, institution, association, society, or corporation that is exempt from taxation
12 under § 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

13 **[(2)] (II) “Eligible field of employment”** includes employment by the State
14 or any local government in the State.

15 **(3) “PHYSICIAN” INCLUDES A PART–TIME PHYSICIAN.**

16 **(4) “PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT” INCLUDES A PART–TIME PHYSICIAN**
17 **ASSISTANT.**

18 (b) **(1)** The Department shall assist in the repayment with the funds
19 transferred to the Department by the Comptroller under § 14–207(d) of the Health
20 Occupations Article of the amount of education loans owed by a physician or physician
21 assistant who:

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

24 **[(ii)] 2.** Is a medical resident specializing in primary care who
25 agrees to practice for at least 2 years as a primary care physician in an eligible field of
26 employment in a geographic area of the State that has been federally designated; and

27 **[(2)] (II)** Meets any other requirements established by the Department.

28 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ESTABLISH PRORATED LOAN REPAYMENT**
29 **ASSISTANCE FOR A PART–TIME PHYSICIAN OR PART–TIME PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**
30 **PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.**

1 (c) Any unspent portions of the money that is transferred to the Department for
2 use under this subtitle from the Board of Physicians Fund may not be transferred to or
3 revert to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the Fund maintained by the
4 Department to administer the Program.

5 **24-1708.**

6 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "COUNCIL" MEANS THE MARYLAND LOAN
7 ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR PHYSICIANS AND
8 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

9 (B) THERE IS A MARYLAND LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM
10 ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR PHYSICIANS AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

11 (C) THE COUNCIL CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

12 (1) THE CHAIR OF THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW
13 COMMISSION, OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE;

14 (2) THE CHAIR OF THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION, OR
15 THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE;

16 (3) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, OR
17 THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

18 (4) THE DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF
19 MEDICINE, OR THE DEAN'S DESIGNEE;

20 (5) THE DEAN OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, OR
21 THE DEAN'S DESIGNEE;

22 (6) THE PRESIDENT OF MEDCHI, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

23 (7) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRIMARY CARE OFFICE IN THE
24 OFFICE OF POPULATION HEALTH IMPROVEMENT;

25 (8) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS;

26 (9) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ACADEMY OF
27 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS; AND

28 (10) ANY OTHER MEMBERS AS DETERMINED NECESSARY BY THE
29 SECRETARY.

1 **(D) (1) THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL SELECT THE CHAIR OF**
2 **THE COUNCIL.**

3 **(2) A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL:**

4 **(I) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE**
5 **COUNCIL; BUT**

6 **(II) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER**
7 **THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE**
8 **BUDGET.**

9 **(3) THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST THREE TIMES A YEAR.**

10 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COUNCIL.**

11 **(F) THE COUNCIL SHALL:**

12 **(1) SEEK PERMANENT AND DIVERSE REVENUE SOURCES TO AID IN**
13 **THE STABILITY AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM;**

14 **(2) HELP ENSURE MAXIMUM USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS;**

15 **(3) USE AVAILABLE DATA AND INFORMATION TO HELP DIRECT**
16 **FUNDING TO PRIORITY AREAS;**

17 **(4) MONITOR SIMILAR LOAN PROGRAMS IN OTHER STATES AND**
18 **ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAM REMAINS COMPETITIVE;**

19 **(5) ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE**
20 **PROGRAM;**

21 **(6) HELP MARKET AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THE PROGRAM**
22 **THROUGH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITIES AS AN**
23 **INCENTIVE TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO PRACTICE IN UNDERSERVED AREAS;**
24 **AND**

25 **(7) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE**
26 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON ANY NECESSARY CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM.**

27 **(G) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE COUNCIL SHALL REPORT**
28 **TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE**
29 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE ACTIVITIES AND**

1 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL.**

2 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
3 1, 2022.