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Secretary
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Deputy Secretary

DATE: January 30, 2024

BILL NO.: House Bill 69

TITLE: Community Development Administration - Live Near Where You Teach Program - Establishment

COMMITTEE: House Committee on Environment and Transportation

Letter of Information

Description of Bill:

House Bill 69 authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish a down payment assistance program in conjunction with an employer partner match for teachers. This program would be offered as an add-on for eligible loans under the Maryland Mortgage Program. HB 69 is similar to HB 81 - introduced in the 2023 Legislative Session - but has the addition of a program that offers newly hired staff members \$1000/month in rental assistance for the first 18 months of full-time employment.

Background and Analysis:

The Department currently operates an employer-based down payment assistance match program called House Keys 4 Employees (<https://mmp.maryland.gov/pages/downpayment.aspx>), which is substantially similar to this proposal. Our Partner Match Programs offer additional down payment and/or closing cost assistance for qualified borrowers who meet the criteria established by the partner. DHCD will match the partner's assistance with up to \$3,500 in additional down payment or closing cost assistance above our standard down payment assistance.

There are currently multiple participating schools or school systems who participate including the public school systems for Calvert County, Charles County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Harford County, and Baltimore City, as well as at least one private school, and a number of colleges, universities, and local governments (<https://mmp.maryland.gov/Pages/Partner-Employers.aspx>). All school systems in the state are eligible to participate.

Employees of a participating employer are eligible, including school faculty and staff, subject to the conditions of the employer and general eligibility for the Maryland Mortgage Program.

