

HOUSE BILL 75

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(PRE-FILED)

4r0895
CF SB 377

By: **Delegate Ebersole**

Requested: October 9, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 20, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Teacher Development and Retention Program – ~~Definition~~**
3 **Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “institution of initial eligibility” to include
5 community colleges as eligible institutions as part of the criteria for applicants for
6 the Teacher Development and Retention Program; altering certain school years for
7 participation in the Program; altering the evaluation requirements for the Program;
8 authorizing the Teacher Development and Retention Fund to be used for
9 administrative expenses for the Program; and generally relating to the Teacher
10 Development and Retention Program.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Education
13 Section 18–2701, 18–2703(a) and (b)(1), 18–2705, and 18–2706
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
17 Article – Education
18 Section 18–2702(a) through (c)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

3 **Article – Education**

4 18–2701.

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

6 (b) “Eligible individual” means an individual who is:

7 (1) Enrolled in the first or second year at an institution of initial eligibility;
8 and

9 (2) Interested in pursuing a career in the teaching profession.

10 (c) “Fund” means the Teacher Development and Retention Fund established
11 under this subtitle.

12 (d) “Institution of initial eligibility” means [an]:

13 (1) AN institution of higher education in the State where at least 40% of
14 the attendees receive federal Pell Grants; OR

15 (2) A COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 16 OF THIS
16 ARTICLE.

17 (e) “Program” means the Teacher Development and Retention Program
18 established under this subtitle.

19 18–2702.

20 (a) (1) There is a Teacher Development and Retention Program.

21 (2) The Teacher Development and Retention Program is a pilot program
22 designed to incentivize a cohort of students to pursue a career in the teaching profession.

23 (b) (1) The purpose of the Program is to provide support to eligible individuals
24 who ultimately pledge to fulfill a service obligation as a teacher employed full-time in a
25 high-needs school, grade level, or content area in the State in which there is a shortage of
26 teachers, as identified by the Department.

27 (2) The Program shall provide financial support to eligible individuals
28 interested in pursuing a career in the teaching profession, beginning by offering eligible
29 individuals a one-time stipend for participation in an experiential learning opportunity in
30 a classroom and concluding by placing those individuals in high-needs schools, grade
31 levels, or content areas.

1 (c) The Office shall establish eligibility criteria for the Program, including
2 requirements for an applicant to:

3 (1) Be enrolled in the first or second year at an institution of initial
4 eligibility in an associate's or a bachelor's degree program; and

5 (2) Before receiving an educator internship stipend under § 18–2703 of this
6 subtitle, pledge to fulfill a service obligation as a teacher employed full-time in a
7 high-needs school, grade level, or content area in which there is a shortage of teachers, as
8 identified by the Department, for a minimum of 2 years.

9 18–2703.

10 (a) (1) In each school year from the [2023–2024] 2024–2025 school year
11 through the [2025–2026] 2026–2027 school year, a recipient who is selected for support
12 under the Program shall receive an initial stipend to support the recipient's participation
13 in an experiential learning opportunity in a public school or publicly funded
14 prekindergarten classroom.

15 (2) The experiential learning opportunity shall:

16 (i) Occur within the first or second year of the recipient's enrollment
17 in an institution of initial eligibility; and

18 (ii) Contribute to the education of the students in the classroom in
19 which the recipient participates.

20 (3) The purpose of the initial stipend awarded under this subsection is to
21 nurture in the recipient a passion for becoming a teacher.

22 (4) If the institution of initial eligibility has a written agreement with a
23 public partner school or publicly funded prekindergarten program for the establishment of
24 a training practicum under § 6–120 of this article, then the recipient's experiential learning
25 opportunity shall be in a classroom within the partner school.

26 (5) The Office shall determine the amount of the initial stipends awarded
27 under this subsection.

28 (b) (1) In each school year from the [2026–2027] 2027–2028 school year
29 through the [2028–2029] 2029–2030 school year, a Program recipient shall be eligible for
30 an internship stipend if the Program recipient:

31 (i) Is currently enrolled in a teacher preparation program at an
32 institution of higher education in the State that, through its course of study leads to a
33 Maryland professional teacher's certificate;

1 (ii) Is currently engaged in an internship or a practicum providing
2 direct experience working with students in a public school or publicly funded
3 prekindergarten program as part of the recipient's course of study;

4 (iii) Continues to make satisfactory progress toward a degree and
5 maintain the standards of the institution; and

6 (iv) Pledges to fulfill a service obligation for 2 years as a teacher
7 employed full-time in a high-needs school, grade level, or content area in which there is a
8 shortage of teachers, as identified by the Department under paragraph (4) of this
9 subsection.

10 18-2705.

11 (a) On or before July 1, 2028, the Commission shall [hire an independent
12 consultant to evaluate] CONDUCT AN EVALUATION OF the effectiveness of the Program
13 in attracting new teachers to the profession.

14 (b) On or before January 1, 2029, the Commission shall report the results of the
15 evaluation to the Governor, and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government
16 Article, the General Assembly.

17 18-2706.

18 (a) There is a Teacher Development and Retention Fund.

19 (b) The purpose of the Fund is to provide support to eligible individuals who are
20 interested in pursuing a career in the teaching profession and who ultimately pledge to
21 fulfill a service obligation as a teacher employed full-time in a high-needs school, grade
22 level, or content area in which there is a shortage of teachers.

23 (c) The Commission shall administer the Fund.

24 (d) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of
25 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

26 (2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the
27 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

28 (e) The Fund consists of:

29 (1) Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund;

30 (2) Interest earnings of the Fund; and

31 (3) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the
32 Fund.

1 (f) (1) The Fund [may] SHALL be used [only] to administer the Program and
2 provide support to recipients under the Program.

3 (2) THE FUND MAY BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR
4 THE PROGRAM.

5 (g) (1) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same
6 manner as other State money may be invested.

7 (2) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

8 (h) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the State
9 budget.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
11 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.