

# SENATE BILL 377

F2

(4lr1806)

## ENROLLED BILL

— *Education, Energy, and the Environment/Appropriations* —

Introduced by **Senator King**

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 **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; altering the termination date of the  
10 Program; and generally relating to the Teacher Development and Retention  
11 Program.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Education

14 Section 18–2701, 18–2703(a) and (b)(1), 18–2705, and 18–2706

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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 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

3 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
4 Article – Education  
5 Section 18–2702(a) through (c)  
6 Annotated Code of Maryland  
7 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Chapter 627 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023  
10 Section 4

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

13 **Article – Education**

14 18–2701.

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

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

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

18 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 18–2702.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 18-2703.

21 (a) (1) In each school year from the [2023-2024] 2024-2025 school year  
22 through the [2025-2026] 2026-2027 school year, a recipient who is selected for support  
23 under the Program shall receive an initial stipend to support the recipient's participation in  
24 an experiential learning opportunity in a public school or publicly funded prekindergarten  
25 classroom.

26 (2) The experiential learning opportunity shall:

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

29 (ii) Contribute to the education of the students in the classroom in  
30 which the recipient participates.

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

33 (4) If the institution of initial eligibility has a written agreement with a  
34 public partner school or publicly funded prekindergarten program for the establishment of

1 a training practicum under § 6–120 of this article, then the recipient’s experiential learning  
2 opportunity shall be in a classroom within the partner school.

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 18–2705.

20 (a) On or before July 1, ~~2028~~, 2029, the Commission shall [hire an independent  
21 consultant to evaluate] CONDUCT AN EVALUATION OF the effectiveness of the Program in  
22 attracting new teachers to the profession.

23 (b) On or before January 1, ~~2029~~, 2030, the Commission shall report the results  
24 of the evaluation to the Governor, and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government  
25 Article, the General Assembly.

26 18–2706.

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

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

32 (c) The Commission shall administer the Fund.

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

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

5           (e)   The Fund consists of:

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

7                   (2)   Interest earnings of the Fund; and

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

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

12                   (2)   THE FUND MAY BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR  
13 THE PROGRAM.

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

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

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

19                                   Chapter 627 of the Acts of 2023

20           SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
21 1, 2023. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of [6] 7 years and, at the end  
22 of June 30, [2029] 2030, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General  
23 Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

24           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
25 1, 2024.