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By: **Delegates Hammen, Guns, Weir, Baldwin, Boutin, Cane, D. Davis,  
Elliott, Frush, Hubbard, Hurson, Klausmeier, Mohorovic, Morhaim,  
Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Owings, Redmer, Sher, Stern, and Stull**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2000

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Maryland Dent-Care Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Dent-Care Program to provide certain  
4 education loan assistance grants to certain dentists who agree that a certain  
5 percentage of their patients treated for a certain period of time will be Maryland  
6 Medical Assistance Program recipients; requiring the State Scholarship  
7 Administration to administer the Maryland Dent-Care Program with the  
8 assistance of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Oral  
9 Health; establishing certain requirements for receiving a grant under the  
10 Program; authorizing the Administration to award a certain number of grants  
11 per year to a certain maximum number of participants in the Program;  
12 authorizing a certain maximum amount for each grant; establishing certain  
13 requirements for participants in the Program to continue to receive grants;  
14 requiring the Administration, in collaboration with the Department of Health  
15 and Mental Hygiene, to adopt certain regulations; providing for funding for the  
16 Program as provided in the State budget; defining certain terms; and generally  
17 relating to the Maryland Dent-Care Program.

18 BY adding to

19 Article - Education

20 Section 18-2401 through 18-2408, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle

21 "Subtitle 24. Maryland Dent-Care Program"

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (1999 Replacement Volume)

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

25 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1 **Article - Education**

## 2 SUBTITLE 24. MARYLAND DENT-CARE PROGRAM.

3 18-2401.

4 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
5 INDICATED.6 (B) "HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN" MEANS ANY LOAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE OR  
7 GRADUATE STUDY LEADING TO PRACTICE AS A DENTIST THAT IS OBTAINED FOR  
8 TUITION, EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES, OR LIVING EXPENSES FROM:9 (1) A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, GOVERNMENT, OR COMMERCIAL  
10 SOURCE; OR11 (2) AN ORGANIZATION, INSTITUTION, ASSOCIATION, SOCIETY, OR  
12 CORPORATION THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OR (4) OF THE  
13 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.

14 (C) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND DENT-CARE PROGRAM.

15 18-2402.

16 (A) THERE IS A PROGRAM OF HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN ASSISTANCE GRANTS  
17 TO DENTISTS IN THE STATE, KNOWN AS THE MARYLAND DENT-CARE PROGRAM.18 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO ORAL  
19 HEALTH SERVICES FOR UNDERSERVED MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
20 RECIPIENTS BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF DENTISTS WHO TREAT THAT  
21 POPULATION.

22 18-2403.

23 (A) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM WITH THE  
24 ASSISTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, OFFICE OF  
25 ORAL HEALTH.26 (B) THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, OFFICE OF ORAL  
27 HEALTH SHALL:

28 (1) RECRUIT DENTISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM;

29 (2) DETERMINE IF THE PRIVATE PRACTICE OR CLINICAL SETTING IN  
30 WHICH AN APPLICANT WILL PRACTICE IS ACCESSIBLE TO UNDERSERVED MARYLAND  
31 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RECIPIENTS AND IF THE APPLICANT QUALIFIES  
32 FOR THE PROGRAM;

1 (3) DETERMINE IF EACH PARTICIPANT MEETS THE PROGRAM  
2 REQUIREMENTS AND SERVES THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF MARYLAND MEDICAL  
3 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RECIPIENTS; AND

4 (4) NOTIFY THE ADMINISTRATION OF ANY FINDINGS MADE IN  
5 ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION.

6 18-2404.

7 EACH APPLICANT FOR A HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN ASSISTANCE GRANT UNDER  
8 THIS SUBTITLE SHALL:

9 (1) BE LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN MARYLAND BY THE STATE BOARD OF  
10 DENTAL EXAMINERS;

11 (2) DEMONSTRATE FINANCIAL NEED;

12 (3) BE EMPLOYED FULL TIME AS A DENTIST;

13 (4) AGREE THAT AT LEAST 30% OF THE PATIENTS TREATED BY THE  
14 DENTIST EACH YEAR FOR A 3-YEAR PERIOD IN A PRIVATE PRACTICE OR CLINICAL  
15 SETTING WILL BE MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RECIPIENTS; AND

16 (5) MEET ANY OTHER CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE  
17 ADMINISTRATION.

18 18-2405.

19 (A) THE ADMINISTRATION, ON NOTIFICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
20 HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, MAY AWARD HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN  
21 ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO UP TO 5 PARTICIPANTS EACH YEAR, WITH A MAXIMUM OF 15  
22 PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM.

23 (B) A HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN ASSISTANCE GRANT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE  
24 MAY BE IN THE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$33,000 PER YEAR.

25 18-2406.

26 EACH RECIPIENT OF A HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN ASSISTANCE GRANT UNDER  
27 THIS SUBTITLE MAY HOLD THE GRANT FOR UP TO 3 YEARS IF THE RECIPIENT:

28 (1) CONTINUES TO BE EMPLOYED FULL TIME AS A DENTIST; AND

29 (2) CONTINUES TO TREAT MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
30 RECIPIENTS AS AT LEAST 30% OF ALL PATIENTS TREATED BY THE DENTIST IN A  
31 PRIVATE PRACTICE OR CLINICAL SETTING AUTHORIZED UNDER THE PROGRAM.

32 18-2407.

33 THE ADMINISTRATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
34 HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE

1 PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING REGULATIONS ON REPAYMENT OF  
2 FUNDS IF THE PARTICIPANT FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
3 PROGRAM.

4 18-2408.

5 FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 June 1, 2000.