
By: **Delegate Rudolph**
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Maryland Quality Teacher Assurance Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Quality Teacher Assurance Program
4 for certain students; providing for the awarding of certain loans; setting certain
5 eligibility standards; providing for loan repayment and debt forgiveness;
6 establishing specified maximums for certain loan awards; providing for certain
7 expenses for which the loan award may be used; providing for the funding of the
8 Maryland Quality Teacher Assurance Program; requiring the State Scholarship
9 Administration to publicize the availability of the Maryland Quality Teacher
10 Assurance Program; requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to
11 submit a plan by a certain date; providing for a delayed effective date for certain
12 sections of this Act; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the
13 Maryland Quality Teacher Assurance Program.

14 BY adding to
15 Article - Education
16 Section 18-2401 through 18-2411, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle
17 "Subtitle 24. The Maryland Quality Teacher Assurance Program"
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (1999 Replacement Volume)

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

22 **Article - Education**

23 **SUBTITLE 24. THE MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE PROGRAM.**

24 18-2401.

25 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
26 INDICATED.

1 (B) "ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION" MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE INSTITUTION OF
2 HIGHER EDUCATION IN THIS STATE THAT POSSESSES A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL
3 FROM THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION.

4 (C) (1) "SERVICE OBLIGATION" MEANS TO TEACH FULL TIME IN THE STATE
5 AS A TEACHER IN A MARYLAND PUBLIC ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR A
6 PERIOD OF 7 YEARS.

7 (2) "SERVICE OBLIGATION" DOES NOT MEAN EMPLOYMENT AS
8 TEACHING ASSISTANTS, VOLUNTEER SERVICE, PAID FELLOWSHIPS, OR
9 INTERNSHIPS.

10 (D) "ADMINISTRATION" MEANS THE STATE SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATION
11 AS DEFINED IN § 18-101(B) OF THIS TITLE.

12 18-2402.

13 THERE IS A MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE PROGRAM WHICH
14 AWARDS LOANS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE FOR STUDENTS WHO PLEDGE TO WORK AS
15 PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN THIS STATE UPON
16 COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES FOR A PERIOD OF 7 YEARS.

17 18-2403.

18 (A) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ANNUALLY SELECT ELIGIBLE LOAN
19 APPLICANTS AND OFFER A MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE PROGRAM
20 LOAN FOR UP TO \$10,000 PER YEAR TO EACH QUALIFIED APPLICANT TO BE USED AT
21 AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION OF THE APPLICANT'S CHOICE.

22 (B) A RECIPIENT OF THE MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE
23 PROGRAM LOAN SHALL:

24 (1) BE ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT OR BE
25 CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT
26 PURSUING A COURSE OF STUDY OR PROGRAM IN AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE LEADING
27 TO A MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE;

28 (2) SIGN A LETTER OF INTENT TO PERFORM THE SERVICE OBLIGATION
29 UPON COMPLETION OF THE RECIPIENT'S REQUIRED STUDIES;

30 (3) PARTICIPATE IN A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
31 APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION;

32 (4) MEET FEDERAL GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE;

33 (5) ACCEPT ANY OTHER CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE AWARD; AND

34 (6) SATISFY ANY ADDITIONAL CRITERIA THE COMMISSION MAY
35 ESTABLISH.

1 18-2404.

2 (A) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL FORGIVE IN THEIR ENTIRETY THE LOAN
3 AWARDS OF A RECIPIENT OF A MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE PROGRAM
4 LOAN IF THE RECIPIENT FULFILLS THE TEACHING SERVICE OBLIGATION OF THIS
5 SUBTITLE.

6 (B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE
7 RECIPIENT OF A MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE PROGRAM LOAN SHALL
8 REPAY THE COMMISSION THE FUNDS RECEIVED PLUS SIMPLE INTEREST THAT IS
9 EQUAL TO THE PRIME RATE OF INTEREST PLUS 2% CALCULATED FROM THE DATE OF
10 THE FIRST PAYMENT OF THE LOAN AWARD UNDER THIS SUBTITLE FOR ANY PORTION
11 OF THE LOAN NOT FORGIVEN IF THE RECIPIENT DOES NOT:

12 (1) SATISFY THE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ELIGIBLE COURSE OF
13 STUDY OR PROGRAM OR FULFILL OTHER REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THIS
14 SUBTITLE;

15 (2) PERFORM THE SERVICE OBLIGATION IN ITS ENTIRETY; AND

16 (3) BECOME PROFESSIONALLY CERTIFIED TO TEACH IN THE STATE OF
17 MARYLAND WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSION IN
18 CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

19 (C) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL FORGIVE A RECIPIENT OF A MARYLAND
20 QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE PROGRAM LOAN FOR 2 YEARS OF THE LOAN AWARD
21 IF:

22 (1) THE RECIPIENT HAS TAKEN THE TEACHER CERTIFICATION
23 EXAMINATION, APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN 2 CONSECUTIVE
24 YEARS; AND

25 (2) THE RECIPIENT FAILS TO PASS THE TEACHER CERTIFICATION
26 EXAMINATION WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSION IN
27 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A)(3) OF THIS SECTION.

28 18-2405.

29 THE ANNUAL LOAN AWARD SHALL BE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000 FOR A
30 STUDENT ENROLLED AT A 2-YEAR ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION OR \$10,000 FOR A STUDENT
31 ENROLLED IN A 4-YEAR ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.

32 18-2406.

33 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, EACH
34 RECIPIENT OF A MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE PROGRAM LOAN AWARD
35 MAY ACCEPT A LOAN AWARD THREE ADDITIONAL TIMES IF THE RECIPIENT:

1 (1) CONTINUES TO BE A FULL-TIME STUDENT AT AN ELIGIBLE
2 INSTITUTION AND TAKES AT LEAST 12 SEMESTER HOURS OF COURSES EACH
3 SEMESTER OR ITS EQUIVALENT AS DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION;

4 (2) IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE INSTITUTION, IS MAKING SATISFACTORY
5 PROGRESS TOWARD A DEGREE; AND

6 (3) MAINTAINS THE STANDARDS OF THE INSTITUTION.

7 (B) (1) EACH RECIPIENT OF A MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE
8 PROGRAM LOAN AWARD WHO IS ENROLLED IN AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM AS
9 ALLOWED IN THIS SUBTITLE MAY RENEW THE LOAN AWARD TWO TIMES IF THE
10 RECIPIENT IS ENROLLED IN AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM THAT, AS
11 DETERMINED BY THE INSTITUTION, REQUIRES 3 YEARS TO COMPLETE.

12 (2) EACH RECIPIENT OF THE MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE
13 PROGRAM LOAN AWARD MAY ACCEPT THE ANNUAL LOAN AWARD FOUR ADDITIONAL
14 TIMES IF THE RECIPIENT IS ENROLLED IN A COURSE OF STUDY THAT, AS
15 DETERMINED BY THE INSTITUTION, REQUIRES 5 YEARS TO COMPLETE.

16 18-2407.

17 A MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE PROGRAM LOAN AWARD MAY BE
18 USED FOR:

19 (1) TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES AT ANY ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION;

20 (2) BOOKS AND SUPPLIES;

21 (3) ROOM AND BOARD;

22 (4) PROFESSIONAL TEACHER DEVELOPMENT OR CERTIFICATION COSTS;
23 AND

24 (5) ANY ADDITIONAL EDUCATION-RELATED EXPENSES.

25 18-2408.

26 FUNDS FOR THE MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE PROGRAM SHALL
27 BE AS PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE COMMISSION BY THE GOVERNOR.
28 18-2409.

29 THE STATE SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATION SHALL PUBLICIZE THE
30 AVAILABILITY OF MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE PROGRAM LOANS.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
32 read as follows:

1 **Article - Education**

2 18-2410.

3 (A) THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION SHALL DRAFT A PLAN
4 TO ADMINISTER A MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE PROGRAM.

5 (B) THE COMMISSION'S PLAN SHALL INCLUDE:

6 (1) A 3-YEAR SCHEDULE, BEGINNING JULY 1, 2001, FOR THE
7 PROGRESSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER
8 ASSURANCE PROGRAM; AND

9 (2) A PRIORITY LIST OF THE APPLICABLE FIELDS OF STUDY WHICH
10 FOCUS ON SUCH FACTORS AS:

11 (I) ECONOMIC NEED OF THE STATE;

12 (II) EMPLOYMENT SHORTAGE AREAS OF THE STATE; AND

13 (III) TRAINING AND EDUCATION CAPACITY OF THE HIGHER
14 EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN MARYLAND.

15 (3) THE PRIORITY LIST SHALL BE CREATED IN CONSULTATION WITH
16 THE APPROPRIATE ADVISORY BOARDS OF THE COMMISSION, THE DEPARTMENT OF
17 BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF HIGHER
18 EDUCATION AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

19 18-2411.

20 THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT THE PLAN
21 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARYLAND QUALITY TEACHER ASSURANCE
22 PROGRAM TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE
23 GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY OCTOBER 30, 2000.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall
25 take effect October 1, 2001.

26 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in
27 Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2000.