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(PRE-FILED)

By: Chairman, Finance Committee (Departmental - Labor, Licensing and Regulation)

Requested: November 15, 1999

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2000

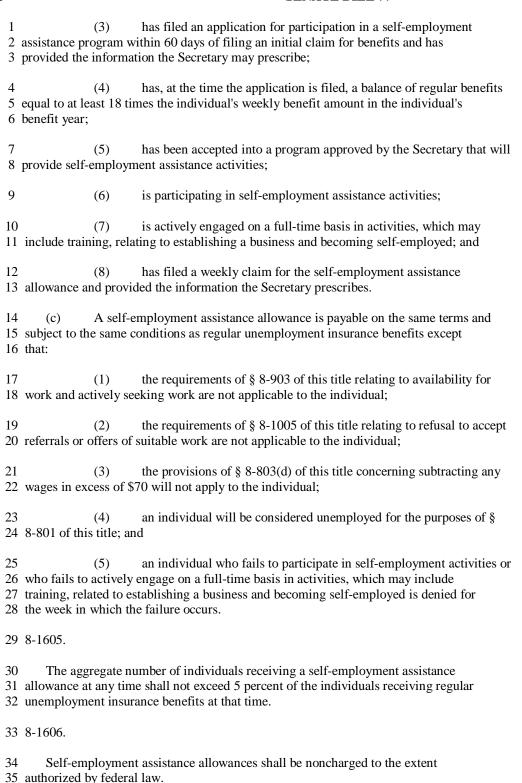
Assigned to: Finance

	A BILL ENTITLED
1	AN ACT concerning
2	Unemployment Insurance - Self-Employment Assistance Program - Repeal of Termination Date
4 5 6	FOR the purpose of repealing the termination date for the Self-Employment Assistance Program; repealing certain plan approval requirements; and generally relating to the Self-Employment Assistance Program.
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12 13 14 15	Chapter 309 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1999
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19 20	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
21	Article - Labor and Employment
22	8-1601.
23	(a) In this subtitle the following terms have the meanings indicated.
24	(b) "Self-employment assistance activities" means activities approved by the

25 Secretary in which an individual participates for the purpose of establishing a

- 1 business and becoming self-employed. Self-employment assistance activities may
- 2 include, but are not limited to, entrepreneurial training, business counseling, and
- 3 technical assistance.
- 4 (c) "Self-employment assistance allowance" means an allowance payable, in
- 5 lieu of regular unemployment insurance benefits, from the unemployment insurance
- 6 trust fund to an individual who meets the requirements of this subtitle.
- 7 (d) "Self-employment assistance program" means a program under which an
- 8 individual who meets the requirements described in § 8-1604 of this subtitle is
- 9 eligible to receive an allowance in lieu of regular unemployment insurance benefits
- 10 for the purpose of assisting that individual in establishing a business and becoming
- 11 self-employed.
- 12 (e) "Regular benefits" means benefits payable to an individual under this title,
- 13 including benefits payable to federal civilian employees and to ex-servicemembers as
- 14 defined in 5 U.S.C. § 8521(a) who are eligible for unemployment insurance benefits
- 15 for ex-servicemembers under 5 U.S.C. § 8521.
- 16 8-1602.
- 17 Unless the result would be inconsistent with this subtitle, the provisions of this
- 18 title that apply to claims for or the payment of regular benefits shall apply to
- 19 self-employment assistance allowances.
- 20 8-1603.
- 21 (a) The weekly amount of a self-employment assistance allowance payable to
- 22 an individual under this subtitle is equal to the weekly benefit amount for regular
- 23 benefits otherwise payable under this title.
- 24 (b) The maximum self-employment assistance allowance paid under this
- 25 subtitle may not exceed the maximum amount of benefits established under § 8-808
- 26 of this title.
- 27 8-1604.
- 28 (a) Self-employment assistance benefits will be payable pursuant to the
- 29 eligibility requirements of this subtitle.
- 30 (b) An individual may be paid a self-employment assistance allowance if the
- 31 individual:
- 32 (1) is determined eligible to be paid regular unemployment insurance
- 33 benefits except for the requirements described in subsection (c) of this section;
- 34 (2) is identified by a worker profiling system, as outlined in the Code of
- 35 Maryland Regulations, as an individual likely to exhaust regular unemployment
- 36 insurance benefits;

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- 2 An application for review of the decision of an individual who is not accepted
- 3 into the self-employment assistance program may be filed with the Secretary within
- 4 15 days after the Secretary mailed or otherwise delivered the decision.
- 5 8-1608.
- 6 The Secretary may adopt regulations to implement a self-employment
- 7 assistance program, including, but not limited to, criteria for approval of programs
- 8 that provide self-employment assistance activities and eligibility criteria for
- 9 acceptance into and participation in these programs.

10 Chapter 332 of the Acts of 1995, as amended by Chapter 309 of the Acts of 1999

- 12 [SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That subject to Section 4 of
- 13 this Act, this Act shall remain effective until June 1, 2000, and with no further action
- 14 required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force
- 15 and effect.]

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Chapter 332 of the Acts of 1995

- 17 [SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall terminate
- 18 as provided in Section 3 of this Act, as of the effective date of the withdrawal of
- 19 approval of any plan required by the United States Department of Labor, or as of the
- 20 week preceding the week containing the date when federal law no longer authorizes
- 21 self-employment assistance programs, whichever is earlier.]
- 22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
- 23 June 1, 2000.