
By: **Delegate Hixson**
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2002
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Certificated Personnel - Expanded Eligibility for Stipends,**
3 **Bonuses, and Scholarships**

4 FOR the purpose of making certain certificated school personnel eligible for certain
5 stipends and bonuses, subject to conditions and a determination by the State
6 Board of Education; making certain certificated school personnel in certain
7 related services areas eligible for a certain scholarship program, subject to
8 conditions; and generally relating to stipends, bonuses, and scholarship
9 eligibility for certain certificated school personnel.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Education
12 Section 6-306
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2001 Replacement Volume)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article - Education
17 Section 18-703
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2001 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 6-306.

24 (a) In this section, "county grant for national certification" means an annual
25 grant distributed to a teacher certified by the National Board for Professional
26 Teaching Standards established:

27 (1) Outside of the collective bargaining process; or

1 (2) As part of a collective bargaining agreement with the local employee
2 organization.

3 (b) (1) For fiscal year 2000 and each subsequent fiscal year, the Governor
4 shall include in each year's operating budget funding for the stipends and bonuses
5 provided in this subsection.

6 (2) A classroom teacher who holds a standard professional certificate or
7 an advanced professional certificate who is employed by a county board and who
8 holds a certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
9 shall receive a stipend from the State in an amount equal to the county grant for
10 national certification, up to a maximum of \$2,000 per qualified teacher.

11 (3) (i) An individual who graduates from an accredited institution of
12 higher education in the top 10% of his or her class, becomes employed by a county
13 board, and remains employed as a classroom teacher in the public school system for a
14 minimum of 3 consecutive years shall receive a salary signing bonus of \$1,000.

15 (ii) If the individual leaves employment with the public school
16 system before the end of the 3-year commitment, the individual shall reimburse the
17 State in the amount of \$1,000.

18 (4) A classroom teacher who holds an advanced professional certificate
19 and teaches in a public school identified by the State Board as a reconstitution school,
20 a reconstitution-eligible school, or a challenge school shall receive a stipend from the
21 State in the amount of \$2,000 for each year that the teacher performs satisfactorily in
22 the classroom.

23 (5) (I) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION, THE STATE BOARD MAY, UPON
24 THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT:

25 1. DETERMINE THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR RECRUITMENT
26 AND RETENTION MEASURES FOR A CATEGORY OF CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL IN THE
27 SCHOOLS OTHER THAN THE PERSONNEL DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS (2) THROUGH
28 (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND

29 2. MAKE THE ADDITIONAL CATEGORY OF CERTIFICATED
30 PERSONNEL ELIGIBLE FOR THE STIPENDS AND BONUSES PROVIDED UNDER THIS
31 SECTION.

32 (II) THE ACTION BY THE STATE BOARD TO MAKE A CATEGORY OF
33 CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL OTHER THAN THE CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL
34 DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS(2) THROUGH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION ELIGIBLE FOR
35 THE STIPENDS AND BONUSES PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE TAKEN AT
36 AN OPEN MEETING.

37 (c) An individual who receives a stipend or bonus under subsection (b) of this
38 section may not be deemed an employee of the State.

1 (d) The employer of an individual who receives a stipend or bonus under
2 subsection (b) of this section shall pay the increase in fringe benefit costs associated
3 with the stipend or bonus.

4 (e) The Department shall act as fiscal agent for funds disbursed under this
5 section.

6 18-703.

7 (a) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

8 (1) "Public school" means a school in the public elementary and
9 secondary education system in this State.

10 (2) "Eligible institution" means an accredited college or university that
11 has a program of undergraduate or graduate studies that would certify the recipient
12 to teach in this State in an area of critical shortage and which is:

13 (i) Authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission;
14 and

15 (ii) Approved by the State Board of Education.

16 (3) "Area of critical shortage" means an academic field OR A RELATED
17 SERVICES AREA identified by the State Board of Education in accordance with the
18 provisions of subsection (h) of this section as having projected employment vacancies
19 which substantially exceed projected qualified graduates.

20 (4) "Area of geographic shortage" means a geographic area of the State
21 identified by the State Board of Education as less able than others in the State to
22 satisfy the need for public school teachers OR OTHER CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL in
23 an academic field OR RELATED SERVICES AREA identified for at least 3 years as an
24 area of critical shortage.

25 (5) "Degreed recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance grant
26 under this section who possesses an undergraduate or graduate degree.

27 (6) "Nondegreed recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance
28 grant awarded under this section who does not possess an undergraduate or graduate
29 degree in an area of critical shortage.

30 (7) "Teacher recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance grant
31 awarded under this section employed or certified as a teacher in a field which is not
32 an area of critical shortage.

33 (8) "Service obligation" means to teach OR TO PROVIDE RELATED
34 SERVICES in the State in an area of geographic or critical shortage in a public school.

35 (9) "Tuition assistance" means any funds provided for the cost of basic
36 instructional charges, fees, room, board, or other related educational expenses.

1 (b) (1) Economic Development Student Assistance Grants to be known as
2 the Sharon Christa McAuliffe Memorial Teacher Education Award may be awarded as
3 teacher education tuition assistance grants.

4 (2) The Administration shall award annually to eligible applicants
5 tuition assistance grants for the education of persons to teach in areas of critical or
6 geographic shortage.

7 (3) The recipient of a teacher education tuition assistance grant shall use
8 the award at an eligible institution.

9 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules and regulations to
10 determine academic criteria for selection of tuition assistance recipients from eligible
11 applicants.

12 (c) A recipient of a tuition assistance grant shall:

13 (1) Qualify as follows:

14 (i) Have earned 60 credits of undergraduate collegiate education
15 and be enrolled in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in a program leading to
16 certification to teach in an area of critical or geographic shortage and be selected by
17 the Administration on a competitive basis among qualified applicants based on
18 academic criteria, not limited to standardized tests, established by the State Board of
19 Education; or

20 (ii) Have an undergraduate or graduate degree and be enrolled in
21 or sign a letter of intent to enroll in courses leading to certification to teach in an area
22 of critical or geographic shortage and be selected among qualified applicants on a
23 competitive basis based on academic criteria established by the State Board of
24 Education; or

25 (iii) Persons who are already teachers shall:

26 1. Be nominated by the superintendent of schools of the
27 system in which the person teaches or intends to teach; and

28 2. Enroll as a student in courses required for teacher
29 certification in an academic area in which there is a critical or geographic shortage of
30 teachers; and

31 3. Be selected by the Administration on a competitive basis
32 among qualified applicants based on criteria established by the State Board of
33 Education;

34 (2) Sign a letter of intent as follows:

35 (i) A nondegreed recipient who is not already a teacher shall be
36 enrolled in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in an eligible institution as a student in
37 an undergraduate program necessary for teacher education; or

1 (ii) A degreed recipient shall enroll in or sign a letter of intent to
2 enroll in courses leading to certification to teach in an area of critical or geographic
3 shortage; or

4 (iii) A recipient who is already a teacher shall sign a letter of intent
5 to enroll in an eligible institution as a student in a teacher certification program in an
6 area in which there is a critical or geographic shortage of teachers;

7 (3) Perform the service obligation upon completion of required studies;

8 (4) Maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and
9 advance in academic standing at least 1 year in each year in which an award is
10 renewed; and

11 (5) Satisfy whatever other criteria the Administration and the State
12 Board of Education establish.

13 (d) Grants to teacher recipients may not be used to supplant retraining efforts
14 by local boards of education.

15 (e) (1) For a full-time student, the annual amount of tuition assistance shall
16 be equal to the cost of tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board, not to exceed the
17 lesser of costs incurred for the program required for teacher certification in an area of
18 critical or geographic shortage or the sum of these costs for a full-time undergraduate
19 in-State resident student at the University of Maryland, College Park.

20 (2) For a part-time student, the amount of an award may not exceed the
21 applicable cost of tuition and mandatory fees for a comparable undergraduate
22 in-State student at the University of Maryland, College Park.

23 (f) (1) A nondegreed recipient may renew an award for 1 year if the
24 recipient:

25 (i) Remains an undergraduate student in an area of critical or
26 geographic shortage; and

27 (ii) Maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
28 and advances in academic standing at least 1 year for each year for which an award
29 is renewed.

30 (2) A degreed recipient and a teacher recipient may renew an award for
31 1 year if that recipient maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

32 (g) (1) The State Superintendent of Schools shall project annually the
33 number of vacancies for employment expected in each of the subsequent 5 years in
34 areas of critical or geographic shortage and the number of students expected to
35 graduate from programs qualifying them to teach in these fields during the same
36 period. The State Superintendent of Schools shall certify annually to the
37 Administration those programs that continue to be areas of critical or geographic

1 shortage as evidenced by projected employment vacancies substantially exceeding
2 projected qualified graduates.

3 (2) In any year in which an area is determined by the State
4 Superintendent of Schools to no longer be an area of critical or geographic shortage,
5 the Administration shall discontinue making new awards in that area.

6 (3) Deletion of any academic field as an area of critical or geographic
7 shortage does not:

8 (i) Terminate the right of existing recipients to renew awards
9 under § 18-704(d) of this subtitle; or

10 (ii) If the recipient continues to teach in a public school in this State
11 in that academic field, invoke the provisions of § 18-701(e)(1) of this subtitle or
12 disqualify the recipient under the provisions of § 18-701(e)(2) of this subtitle.

13 (h) Funds for the Teacher Education Tuition Assistance Program shall be as
14 provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the Governor.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2002.