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By: **Delegates Rosenberg, Howard, and Marriott**  
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2003  
Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment**  
3 **Program - Eligibility Criteria**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that an individual receive a graduate,  
5 professional, or undergraduate degree from a college or university in the State  
6 to be eligible to receive repayment assistance from the Janet L. Hoffman Loan  
7 Assistance Repayment Program; and generally relating to the eligibility criteria  
8 for the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article - Education  
11 Section 18-1502  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

16 **Article - Education**

17 18-1502.

18 (a) There is a program of loan assistance repayment known as the Janet L.  
19 Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program in the State.

20 (b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the Office of  
21 Student Financial Assistance shall assist in the repayment of the amount of any  
22 higher education loan owed by an individual who:

- 23 (1) Receives a graduate, professional, or undergraduate degree from:
- 24 (i) A college or university [in the State of Maryland];
- 25 (ii) A school of medicine; or
- 26 (iii) A school of law;

1 (2) Obtains eligible employment;

2 (3) Receives an income that is less than the maximum eligible total  
3 income levels established by the Office, including any additional sources of income;  
4 and

5 (4) Satisfies any other criteria established by the Office.

6 (c) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the  
7 Office shall assist in the repayment of the amount of any higher education loan owed  
8 by a physician who engages in primary care in the State or by a medical resident  
9 specializing in primary care who agrees to practice for at least 2 years as a primary  
10 care physician in a geographic area of the State that has been designated by the  
11 Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene as being medically underserved with the  
12 funds transferred to the Office by the Comptroller under § 14-207(c)(2)(i) of the  
13 Health Occupations Article.

14 (2) A physician who engages in primary care is not precluded from  
15 receiving assistance from the Office under subsection (b) of this section.

16 (3) Any unspent portions of the money that is transferred to the Office  
17 for use under this section from the Physician Quality Assurance Fund may not be  
18 transferred to or revert to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the  
19 Fund maintained by the Office to administer these programs to assist physicians  
20 engaged in primary care as specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

21 (d) An applicant for assistance in the repayment of a commercial loan shall  
22 demonstrate to the Office that the commercial loan was used for tuition, educational  
23 expenses, or living expenses for graduate or undergraduate study.

24 (e) Assistance in the repayment of a loan from an entity set forth in §  
25 18-1501(c)(2) of this subtitle shall require the approval of the Office.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 October 1, 2003.