
By: **Delegate Hixson**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2004

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Maryland Teacher Scholarship Program**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the service obligation for recipients of certain Maryland
4 Teacher Scholarships; requiring scholarship recipients to teach in certain
5 schools; altering the time period for recipients to commence employment;
6 requiring recipients who fail to fulfill certain obligations to pay back a certain
7 amount; requiring recipients to request the county school board to provide
8 certain verification of employment to the State Department of Education by a
9 certain date; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to the
10 Maryland Teacher Scholarship program.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article - Education
13 Section 18-2201, 18-2203(b), and 18-2204
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17 Article - Education
18 Section 18-2203.1
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

23 **Article - Education**

24 18-2201.

25 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

26 (b) "Eligible institution" means a public or private institution of higher
27 education in this State that possesses a certificate of approval from the Maryland
28 Higher Education Commission.

1 (c) "Office" means the Office of Student Financial Assistance as defined in §
2 18-101(c) of this title.

3 (d) (1) "Service obligation" means to teach full time in the State as a teacher
4 in a Maryland public elementary or secondary school IN:

5 (I) A CONTENT OR GEOGRAPHIC SHORTAGE AREA AS IDENTIFIED
6 BY THE DEPARTMENT'S MARYLAND TEACHER STAFFING REPORT;

7 (II) A SCHOOL THAT RECEIVES FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER TITLE I OF
8 THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT; OR

9 (III) A SCHOOL IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR SCHOOL
10 IMPROVEMENT, RECONSTITUTION, OR CORRECTIVE ACTION.

11 (2) "Service obligation" does not mean employment as teaching
12 assistants, volunteer service, paid fellowships, or internships.

13 18-2203.

14 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a recipient of the
15 Maryland Teacher Scholarship shall:

16 (i) Be a Maryland resident;

17 (ii) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, be accepted
18 for admission or currently enrolled at an eligible institution as a full-time or
19 part-time undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a course of study or program
20 in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;

21 (iii) 1. For a student currently enrolled in high school, have
22 earned an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent
23 after completion of the first semester of the senior year; or

24 2. For a student currently enrolled as a full-time
25 undergraduate student, have maintained a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0
26 scale and have been making satisfactory progress toward a degree in an academic
27 discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;

28 (iv) Sign [a letter of intent to perform] AN AGREEMENT TO BEGIN
29 the service obligation [upon] WITHIN 6 MONTHS AFTER completion of the recipient's
30 required studies FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS;

31 (v) Accept any other conditions attached to the award; and

32 (vi) Satisfy any additional criteria the Commission may establish.

33 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, an individual who,
34 at the time the individual is scheduled to matriculate at an eligible institution, will
35 have been employed as a teaching assistant at a public elementary or secondary
36 school in the State for at least 2 years:

1 (i) May apply for a Maryland Teacher Scholarship under this
2 subtitle; and

3 (ii) Is eligible to hold a Maryland Teacher Scholarship as a
4 full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student.

5 18-2203.1.

6 (A) A RECIPIENT SHALL REQUEST THE APPROPRIATE COUNTY BOARD TO
7 PROVIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT VERIFICATION OF THEIR TEACHING ASSIGNMENT IN
8 A HIGH-NEED, CONTENT, OR GEOGRAPHIC SHORTAGE AREA ON OR BEFORE:

9 (1) OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR; AND

10 (2) JUNE 30 FOR THE COMPLETED SCHOOL YEAR.

11 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ACCEPT A NOTARIZED STATEMENT ON A
12 PROVISIONAL BASIS DIRECTLY FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT IF A COUNTY
13 BOARD DELAYS IN FORWARDING THE REQUIRED EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION.

14 18-2204.

15 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the recipient of a
16 Maryland Teacher Scholarship shall repay the Commission A PRORATED AMOUNT OF
17 the funds received as set forth in § 18-112 of this title if the recipient does not:

18 (1) Satisfy the degree requirements of the eligible course of study or
19 program or fulfill other requirements as provided in this subtitle;

20 (2) Perform the service obligation for [1 year for each year that the
21 recipient has a scholarship awarded under this subtitle] 5 YEARS; and

22 (3) Become professionally certified to teach in the State of Maryland
23 within the time period specified by the Commission in consultation with the
24 Maryland Department of Education.

25 (b) The Office shall forgive a recipient of a Maryland Teacher Scholarship for
26 2 years of an award if:

27 (1) The recipient has taken the teacher certification examination,
28 approved by the State Board of Education, in 2 consecutive years; and

29 (2) The recipient fails to pass the teacher certification examination
30 within the time period specified by the Commission in accordance with subsection
31 (a)(3) of this section.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 June 1, 2005.