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By: **Senators Kelley, Britt, Conway, and Lawlah**  
Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2004  
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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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 SHORTAGE AREA AS IDENTIFIED BY THE  
6 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, CORRECTIVE ACTION, OR RESTRUCTURING.

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 CONTENT SHORTAGE AREA, TITLE I SCHOOL, OR A SCHOOL IDENTIFIED BY THE  
9 DEPARTMENT FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, CORRECTIVE ACTION, OR  
10 RESTRUCTURING ON OR BEFORE:

11 (1) OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR; AND

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

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

16 18-2204.

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

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

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

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

27 (b) The Office shall forgive a recipient of a Maryland Teacher Scholarship for  
28 2 years of an award if:

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

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

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