
By: **Delegate Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2005

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Welfare Caseworkers Scholarship and Loan Assistance Repayment**
 3 **Program - Establishment and Regulation**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Child Welfare Caseworkers Scholarship and
 5 Loan Assistance Repayment Program; providing the eligibility requirements for
 6 applicants for the Child Welfare Caseworkers Scholarship; providing for the
 7 amount, duration, and use of a certain scholarship award; requiring a certain
 8 scholarship award recipient to sign a certain service obligation agreement;
 9 providing the requirements of the service obligation; requiring the Office of
 10 Student Financial Assistance to send legislators a certain list by a certain date
 11 each year; providing the funding for the Child Welfare Caseworkers Scholarship
 12 and Loan Assistance Repayment Program; requiring the Office to draft a certain
 13 plan; providing the eligibility requirements of the Child Welfare Caseworkers
 14 Loan Assistance Repayment Program; requiring an applicant for a certain loan
 15 assistance program to demonstrate to the Office that a certain commercial loan
 16 was used for certain purposes; requiring the Office to adopt certain regulations;
 17 requiring the Office to submit certain plans to the Governor and the Legislative
 18 Policy Committee on or before a certain date; defining certain terms; and
 19 generally relating to the Child Welfare Caseworkers Scholarship and Loan
 20 Assistance Repayment Program.

21 BY adding to
 22 Article - Education
 23 Section 18-2801 through 18-2812, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle
 24 "Subtitle 28. Child Welfare Caseworkers Scholarship and Loan Assistance
 25 Repayment Program"
 26 Annotated Code of Maryland
 27 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

1 **Article - Education**2 **SUBTITLE 28. CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN**
3 **ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM.**

4 18-2801.

5 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
6 INDICATED.7 (B) (1) "ELIGIBLE FIELD OF EMPLOYMENT" MEANS EMPLOYMENT IN THE
8 STATE BY AN ORGANIZATION, INSTITUTION, ASSOCIATION, SOCIETY, OR
9 CORPORATION THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OR (4) OF THE
10 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.11 (2) "ELIGIBLE FIELD OF EMPLOYMENT" INCLUDES EMPLOYMENT BY
12 THE STATE OR ANY LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE.13 (C) "ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION" MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE INSTITUTION OF
14 HIGHER EDUCATION IN THIS STATE THAT POSSESSES A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL
15 FROM THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION.16 (D) "HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN" MEANS ANY LOAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE OR
17 GRADUATE STUDY THAT IS OBTAINED FOR TUITION, EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES, OR
18 LIVING EXPENSES FROM:19 (1) A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, GOVERNMENT, OR COMMERCIAL
20 SOURCE; OR21 (2) AN ORGANIZATION, INSTITUTION, ASSOCIATION, SOCIETY, OR
22 CORPORATION THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OR (4) OF THE
23 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.

24 (E) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

25 (F) "REGULAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM" MEANS AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM
26 OF STUDY IN AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AT OR BELOW THE
27 BACCALAUREATE LEVEL LEADING TO EITHER AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE OR
28 BACHELOR'S DEGREE.29 (G) "SERVICE OBLIGATION" MEANS FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE
30 STATE.

31 18-2802.

32 (A) THERE IS A CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN
33 ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM IN THIS STATE THAT AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS
34 AND PROVIDES LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

1 (B) THE OFFICE SHALL PUBLICIZE THE AVAILABILITY OF THE CHILD
2 WELFARE CASEWORKERS SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT
3 PROGRAM.

4 18-2803.

5 EACH RECIPIENT OF A CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS SCHOLARSHIP SHALL:

6 (1) BE ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION IN A REGULAR UNDERGRADUATE
7 PROGRAM AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION IN THE STATE;

8 (2) BE A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;

9 (3) BEGIN ATTENDING AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION WITHIN 2 YEARS OF
10 COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL OR, FAILING TO DO SO, PROVIDE EVIDENCE
11 SATISFACTORY TO THE OFFICE OF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES;

12 (4) ENROLL AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION;

13 (5) ACCEPT ANY OTHER CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE AWARD; AND

14 (6) SATISFY ANY ADDITIONAL CRITERIA THE MARYLAND HIGHER
15 EDUCATION COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH.

16 18-2804.

17 (A) THE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD SHALL BE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000
18 FOR A STUDENT ENROLLED AT A 2-YEAR ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION OR \$3,000 FOR A
19 STUDENT ENROLLED IN A 4-YEAR ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.

20 (B) A STUDENT WHO TRANSFERS FROM A 2-YEAR ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION TO A
21 4-YEAR ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION MAY RECEIVE AN ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IN
22 THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000 ONCE THE STUDENT IS ENROLLED AT THE 4-YEAR ELIGIBLE
23 INSTITUTION.

24 18-2805.

25 A CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS SCHOLARSHIP MAY BE USED AT AN ELIGIBLE
26 INSTITUTION IN THE STATE.

27 18-2806.

28 (A) EACH RECIPIENT OF A CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS SCHOLARSHIP
29 MAY HOLD THE AWARD FOR 5 YEARS IF THE RECIPIENT:

30 (1) CONTINUES TO BE A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;

31 (2) CONTINUES TO BE A FULL-TIME STUDENT AT AN ELIGIBLE
32 INSTITUTION IN THE STATE AND TAKES AT LEAST 12 SEMESTER HOURS OF COURSES
33 EACH SEMESTER OR ITS EQUIVALENT AS DETERMINED BY THE OFFICE;

1 (3) IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE INSTITUTION, IS MAKING SATISFACTORY
2 PROGRESS TOWARD A DEGREE; AND

3 (4) MAINTAINS THE STANDARDS OF THE INSTITUTION.

4 (B) EACH RECIPIENT OF A CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS SCHOLARSHIP
5 WHO IS ENROLLED IN AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM AS PERMITTED IN THIS
6 SUBTITLE MAY HOLD THE AWARD FOR 3 YEARS IF THE SAME CONDITIONS OF
7 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION ARE MET.

8 (C) EACH RECIPIENT OF A CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS CASE MANAGER
9 SCHOLARSHIP WHO TRANSFERS FROM A 2-YEAR ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION TO A
10 4-YEAR ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION MAY HOLD THE AWARD FOR A TOTAL OF 5 YEARS,
11 INCLUDING THE YEARS AT BOTH THE 2-YEAR ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION AND THE
12 4-YEAR ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION, IF THE SAME CONDITIONS OF SUBSECTION (A) OF
13 THIS SECTION ARE MET.

14 (D) A RECIPIENT OF AN AWARD MADE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL RECEIVE
15 THE AWARD FOR EACH YEAR INDICATED IN WHICH THE RECIPIENT IS ELIGIBLE IF
16 THE RECIPIENT SIGNS AN AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF THE INITIAL AWARD TO:

17 (1) COMMENCE EMPLOYMENT IN THE STATE WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER
18 COMPLETION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES FOR 1 YEAR FOR EACH YEAR THAT THE
19 SCHOLARSHIP WAS AWARDED; AND

20 (2) REPAY THE STATE THE AMOUNTS AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE
21 AS SET FORTH IN § 18-112 OF THIS TITLE IF THE RECIPIENT DOES NOT:

22 (I) SATISFY THE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ELIGIBLE
23 INSTITUTION OR FULFILL OTHER REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBTITLE;
24 AND

25 (II) PERFORM THE SERVICE OBLIGATION FOR 1 YEAR FOR EACH
26 YEAR THAT THE RECIPIENT HAS A SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

27 (E) THE SERVICE OBLIGATION BEGINS AFTER GRADUATION AND CANNOT BE
28 FULFILLED PRIOR TO GRADUATION FROM AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.

29 18-2807.

30 ON OR BEFORE MAY 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL SEND EACH SENATOR
31 AND EACH DELEGATE A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS IN EACH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT TO
32 WHOM CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AWARDED.

33 18-2808.

34 A CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS SCHOLARSHIP MAY BE USED FOR TUITION
35 AND MANDATORY FEES AT ANY ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.

1 18-2809.

2 FUNDS FOR THE CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN
3 ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL
4 BUDGET OF THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION BY THE GOVERNOR.

5 18-2810.

6 THE OFFICE SHALL DRAFT A PLAN TO ADMINISTER A CHILD WELFARE
7 CASEWORKERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

8 18-2811.

9 (A) THE OFFICE SHALL ASSIST IN THE REPAYMENT OF ANY HIGHER
10 EDUCATION LOAN OWED BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

11 (1) RECEIVES A GRADUATE, PROFESSIONAL, OR UNDERGRADUATE
12 DEGREE FROM:

13 (I) A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND; OR

14 (II) A SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK;

15 (2) OBTAINS ELIGIBLE EMPLOYMENT;

16 (3) RECEIVES AN INCOME THAT IS LESS THAN THE MAXIMUM ELIGIBLE
17 TOTAL INCOME LEVELS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE, INCLUDING ANY ADDITIONAL
18 SOURCES OF INCOME; AND

19 (4) SATISFIES ANY OTHER CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE.

20 (B) AN APPLICANT FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE REPAYMENT OF A COMMERCIAL
21 LOAN SHALL DEMONSTRATE TO THE OFFICE THAT THE COMMERCIAL LOAN WAS
22 USED FOR TUITION, EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES, OR LIVING EXPENSES FOR GRADUATE
23 OR UNDERGRADUATE STUDY.

24 (C) THE OFFICE SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH:

25 (1) THE MAXIMUM STARTING INCOME FOR ELIGIBILITY IN THE CHILD
26 WELFARE CASEWORKERS LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM;

27 (2) THE MAXIMUM TOTAL INCOME FOR ELIGIBILITY IN THE CHILD
28 WELFARE CASEWORKERS LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM, INCLUDING
29 ANY ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INCOME;

30 (3) THAT PRIORITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM SHALL BE
31 GIVEN TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

32 (I) GRADUATED FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN
33 THE LAST 3 YEARS;

1 (II) IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;

2 (III) IS EMPLOYED ON A FULL-TIME BASIS; AND

3 (IV) PROVIDES, AS THE PRINCIPAL PART OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S
4 EMPLOYMENT, CHILD WELFARE SERVICES IN THE STATE;

5 (4) A LIMIT ON THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE
6 OFFICE IN REPAYING THE LOAN OF AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL, BASED ON THE
7 INDIVIDUAL'S TOTAL INCOME AND OUTSTANDING HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN
8 BALANCE;

9 (5) A PROCEDURE AND SCHEDULE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE AMOUNT
10 OF LOAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE TO THE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL; AND

11 (6) AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE ELIGIBILITY OF EACH INDIVIDUAL
12 PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.

13 (D) THE OFFICE SHALL ADOPT ANY OTHER REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO
14 IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

15 18-2812.

16 THE OFFICE SHALL SUBMIT THE PLANS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
17 CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT
18 PROGRAM TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE
19 GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY OCTOBER 30, 2005.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 July 1, 2005.