
By: **Delegate Heller**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Sharon Christa McAuliffe Memorial Teacher Education Award -**
3 **Qualification Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the qualification requirements for applicants for a
5 Sharon Christa McAuliffe Memorial Teacher Education Award; prohibiting the
6 State Board of Education from considering a certain applicant's grade point
7 average as part of certain academic criteria; making certain technical changes;
8 and generally relating to the qualification requirements for a Sharon Christa
9 McAuliffe Memorial Teacher Education Award.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Education
12 Section 18-703
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

17 **Article - Education**

18 18-703.

19 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

20 (2) "Area of critical shortage" means an academic field identified by the
21 State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of subsection (h) of this
22 section as having projected employment vacancies which substantially exceed
23 projected qualified graduates.

24 (3) "Area of geographic shortage" means a geographic area of the State
25 identified by the State Board of Education as less able than others in the State to
26 satisfy the need for public school teachers in an academic field identified for at least
27 3 years as an area of critical shortage.

1 (4) "Degreed recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance grant
2 under this section who possesses an undergraduate or graduate degree.

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

6 (i) Authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission;
7 and

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

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

12 (7) "Public school" means a school in the public elementary and
13 secondary education system in this State.

14 (8) "Service obligation" means to teach in the State in an area of
15 geographic or critical shortage in a public school.

16 (9) "Teacher recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance grant
17 awarded under this section employed or certified as a teacher in a field which is not
18 an area of critical shortage.

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

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

24 (2) The Office shall award annually to eligible applicants tuition
25 assistance grants for the education of persons to teach in areas of critical or
26 geographic shortage.

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

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

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

33 (1) Qualify as follows:

34 (i) Have earned 60 credits of undergraduate collegiate education
35 and be enrolled in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in a program leading to
36 certification to teach in an area of critical or geographic shortage and be selected by

1 the Office on a competitive basis among qualified applicants based on academic
2 criteria, not limited to standardized tests, established by the State Board of
3 Education; [or]

4 (ii) Have EARNED an undergraduate or graduate degree ON OR
5 AFTER JANUARY 1, 1986, and be enrolled in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in
6 courses leading to certification to teach in an area of critical or geographic shortage
7 and be selected among qualified applicants on a competitive basis based on academic
8 criteria established by the State Board of Education; [or]

9 (III) HAVE EARNED AN UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE DEGREE
10 ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1985, AND BE ENROLLED IN OR SIGN A LETTER OF
11 INTENT TO ENROLL IN COURSES LEADING TO CERTIFICATION TO TEACH IN AN AREA
12 OF CRITICAL OR GEOGRAPHIC SHORTAGE AND BE SELECTED AMONG QUALIFIED
13 APPLICANTS ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS BASED ON ACADEMIC CRITERIA
14 ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT EXCLUDE
15 CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICANT'S GRADE POINT AVERAGE; OR

16 [(iii)] (IV) Persons who are already teachers shall:

17 1. Be nominated by the superintendent of schools of the
18 system in which the person teaches or intends to teach; [and]

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

22 3. Be selected by the Office on a competitive basis among
23 qualified applicants based on criteria established by the State Board of Education;

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (5) Satisfy whatever other criteria the Office and the State Board of
2 Education establish.

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

5 (e) (1) For a full-time student, the annual amount of tuition assistance shall
6 be equal to the cost of tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board, not to exceed the
7 lesser of costs incurred for the program required for teacher certification in an area of
8 critical or geographic shortage or the sum of these costs for a full-time undergraduate
9 in-State resident student at the 4-year public institution of higher education within
10 the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland
11 University College and University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual
12 expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate.

13 (2) For a part-time student, the amount of an award may not exceed the
14 applicable cost of tuition and mandatory fees for a comparable undergraduate
15 in-State student at the 4-year public institution of higher education within the
16 University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University
17 College and University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for
18 a full-time resident undergraduate.

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

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

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

26 (2) A degreed recipient and a teacher recipient may renew an award for
27 1 year if that recipient maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

28 (g) (1) The State Superintendent of Schools shall project annually the
29 number of vacancies for employment expected in each of the subsequent 5 years in
30 areas of critical or geographic shortage and the number of students expected to
31 graduate from programs qualifying them to teach in these fields during the same
32 period. The State Superintendent of Schools shall certify annually to the Office those
33 programs that continue to be areas of critical or geographic shortage as evidenced by
34 projected employment vacancies substantially exceeding projected qualified
35 graduates.

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

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

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

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

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

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