
By: **Delegate Heller**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Ways and Means, March 3, 2005

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 23, 2005

CHAPTER _____

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

1 section as having projected employment vacancies which substantially exceed
2 projected qualified graduates.

3 (3) "Area of geographic shortage" means a geographic area of the State
4 identified by the State Board of Education as less able than others in the State to
5 satisfy the need for public school teachers in an academic field identified for at least
6 3 years as an area of critical shortage.

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

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

12 (i) Authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission;
13 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (1) Qualify as follows:

6 (i) Have earned 60 credits of undergraduate collegiate education
7 and be enrolled in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in a program leading to
8 certification to teach in an area of critical or geographic shortage and be selected by
9 the Office on a competitive basis among qualified applicants based on academic
10 criteria, not limited to standardized tests, established by the State Board of
11 Education; [or]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (2) A degreed recipient and a teacher recipient may renew an award for
34 1 year if that recipient maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

35 (g) (1) The State Superintendent of Schools shall project annually the
36 number of vacancies for employment expected in each of the subsequent 5 years in
37 areas of critical or geographic shortage and the number of students expected to
38 graduate from programs qualifying them to teach in these fields during the same
39 period. The State Superintendent of Schools shall certify annually to the Office those

1 programs that continue to be areas of critical or geographic shortage as evidenced by
2 projected employment vacancies substantially exceeding projected qualified
3 graduates.

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

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

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

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

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

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