
By: **Senators Pinsky, Britt, Conway, Exum, Frosh, Green, Grosfeld, and McFadden**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2006

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Teacher Quality Act of 2006**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the National Board Certified Teacher Pilot Program
4 in the State Department of Education; authorizing the State Superintendent of
5 Schools to select a certain number of public school systems and a certain number
6 of public schools to participate in the Program; requiring the State to reimburse
7 a county board of education for certain costs under certain conditions; requiring
8 eligible schools to employ certain teachers who are certified or who are seeking
9 to be certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards for
10 certain purposes under the Program; requiring certain eligible schools to meet
11 certain conditions to receive State funding under the Program; requiring certain
12 teachers to be included in a certain State and local aid program; requiring the
13 Department to submit certain reports; requiring the State Board of Education to
14 establish an incentive program to encourage the use and expansion of
15 professional development schools in the State; prohibiting a public school or
16 public school system from employing an individual holding a Resident Teaching
17 Certificate at certain schools under certain circumstances; requiring the State
18 Board of Education to establish an incentive program to encourage public school
19 systems to adopt a teacher support system and improve teacher retention;
20 altering the eligibility requirements for the Sharon Christa McAuliffe Memorial
21 Teacher Education Award program to include certain students in certain areas
22 of critical need; repealing certain eligibility under the program; altering the
23 number of years certain students may receive a grant under the program;
24 establishing the Alternative Teaching Opportunity Grant program in the
25 Maryland Higher Education Commission; establishing eligibility criteria for
26 scholarship awards under the program; authorizing awards to be used for
27 certain purposes; altering the eligibility requirements for certain loan assistance
28 repayments under the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program;
29 requiring the Governor to include certain amounts in the annual budget
30 submission for certain programs for certain fiscal years; requiring the State
31 Board of Education to adopt certain regulations to implement certain programs;
32 defining certain terms; and generally relating to public school teachers and
33 programs to increase the availability of qualified teachers in public schools.

34 BY adding to

1 Article - Education
2 Section 6-117, 6-118, 6-119, 6-120, and 18-708
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article - Education
7 Section 18-703 and 18-1502
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

12 **Article - Education**

13 6-117.

14 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
15 INDICATED.

16 (2) "NBC TEACHER" MEANS A TEACHER WHO IS CERTIFIED BY THE
17 NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS.

18 (3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER
19 PILOT PROGRAM.

20 (4) "ELIGIBLE SCHOOL" MEANS A MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT IS A:

21 (I) TITLE I SCHOOL; OR

22 (II) SCHOOL IDENTIFIED FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT,
23 CORRECTIVE ACTION, OR RESTRUCTURING UNDER THE ACCOUNTABILITY
24 REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD.

25 (B) (1) THERE IS A NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER PILOT PROGRAM
26 IN THE STATE.

27 (2) THE PROGRAM SHALL CONSIST OF THREE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS
28 ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTIONS (C) THROUGH (E) OF THIS SECTION.

29 (C) (1) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL SELECT THREE PUBLIC
30 SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS
31 SUBSECTION FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS.

32 (2) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTY BOARD, THE
33 STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL DESIGNATE SIX ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS FROM AMONG
34 THE SCHOOL SYSTEMS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

1 (3) AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL MUST EMPLOY THREE NBC TEACHERS IN
2 EACH FISCAL YEAR THE SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM.

3 (4) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR THAT AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL PARTICIPATES
4 IN THE PROGRAM, THE STATE SHALL REIMBURSE THE COUNTY BOARD FOR THE
5 BOARD'S COST OF EMPLOYING ONE TEACHER AT THE ELIGIBLE SCHOOL, NOT TO
6 EXCEED \$62,000 ANNUALLY, PROVIDED THAT THE WORKLOADS OF THE THREE NBC
7 TEACHERS INCLUDE:

8 (I) FOR NBC TEACHERS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

9 1. NO MORE THAN 67% TEACHING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES;
10 AND

11 2. NO LESS THAN 33% TEACHER LEADERSHIP AND
12 MENTORING ACTIVITIES; AND

13 (II) FOR NBC TEACHERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS:

14 1. TEACHING FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF THREE CLASS
15 PERIODS; AND

16 2. PROVIDING TEACHER LEADERSHIP AND MENTORING
17 ACTIVITIES FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF TWO CLASS PERIODS.

18 (D) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL:

19 (I) FOR WHICH THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OR DESIGNEE HAS
20 MET AND CONSULTED WITH INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS BEFORE HIRING A NEW
21 PRINCIPAL FOR THE SCHOOL;

22 (II) THAT HAS A NEW PRINCIPAL WITHIN 1 YEAR PRIOR TO
23 PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM;

24 (III) THAT HAS UNDERGONE A STAFF RESTRUCTURING IN WHICH
25 TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS HAVE MADE A 3-YEAR COMMITMENT TO WORK AT
26 THE SCHOOL; AND

27 (IV) THAT EMPLOYS THREE NBC TEACHERS.

28 (2) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTY BOARD, THE
29 STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL SELECT SIX ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN THE STATE TO
30 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION FOR A
31 PERIOD OF 3 YEARS.

32 (3) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR THAT AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL PARTICIPATES
33 IN THE PROGRAM, THE STATE SHALL REIMBURSE THE COUNTY BOARD FOR THE
34 BOARD'S COST OF EMPLOYING ONE TEACHER AT THE ELIGIBLE SCHOOL, NOT TO
35 EXCEED \$62,000 ANNUALLY, PROVIDED THAT THE WORKLOADS OF THE THREE NBC
36 TEACHERS INCLUDE:

1 (I) FOR NBC TEACHERS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

2 1. NO MORE THAN 67% TEACHING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES;

3 AND

4 2. NO LESS THAN 33% TEACHER LEADERSHIP AND

5 MENTORING ACTIVITIES; AND

6 (II) FOR NBC TEACHERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS:

7 1. TEACHING FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF THREE CLASS

8 PERIODS; AND

9 2. PROVIDING TEACHER LEADERSHIP AND MENTORING

10 ACTIVITIES FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF TWO CLASS PERIODS.

11 (4) IN ADDITION TO THE REIMBURSEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF
12 THIS SUBSECTION, THE STATE SHALL REIMBURSE A COUNTY BOARD FOR 75% OF THE
13 COST OF 1 ADDITIONAL MONTH OF EMPLOYMENT FOR NO MORE THAN 30 TEACHERS
14 AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF AT AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL FOR THE PURPOSE OF
15 PROFESSIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TEAM PLANNING.

16 (E) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL IN THE STATE
17 WITH AT LEAST THREE TEACHERS WHO HAVE:

18 (I) AGREED TO PURSUE CERTIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL BOARD
19 FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS; AND

20 (II) SIGNED A LETTER OF INTENT TO TEACH AT THE SCHOOL FOR 3
21 YEARS.

22 (2) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTY BOARD, THE
23 STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL SELECT SIX ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN THE STATE TO
24 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION FOR A
25 PERIOD OF 3 YEARS.

26 (3) THE STATE MAY REIMBURSE THE COUNTY BOARD FOR THE BOARD'S
27 COST OF EMPLOYING ONE STAFF DEVELOPMENT TEACHER AT AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL,
28 NOT TO EXCEED \$62,000 ANNUALLY.

29 (4) CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION UNDER THIS
30 SUBSECTION SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE STATE AND LOCAL AID PROGRAM FOR
31 CERTIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS
32 ESTABLISHED UNDER § 6-112 OF THIS TITLE.

33 (F) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2008 THROUGH 2010, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE
34 IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION \$1,800,000 FOR THE PROGRAM.

35 (G) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AND
36 ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

1 (H) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 OF THE YEARS 2008 THROUGH 2010, THE
2 DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN
3 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE
4 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM.

5 6-118.

6 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL" MEANS A
7 PARTNERSHIP, BETWEEN AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE
8 AND ONE OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THAT PROVIDES ACADEMIC AND CLASSROOM
9 TRAINING FOR TEACHING CANDIDATES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
10 OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS.

11 (B) (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH AN INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO
12 ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF PROFESSIONAL
13 DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

14 (2) THE PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO
15 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
16 DEVELOPING AND EXPANDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS.

17 (C) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AND
18 ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION, INCLUDING:

19 (1) PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS; AND

20 (2) CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS.

21 6-119.

22 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A COUNTY
23 BOARD MAY NOT EMPLOY AN INDIVIDUAL HOLDING A RESIDENT TEACHER
24 CERTIFICATE TO TEACH AT A SCHOOL IDENTIFIED FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT,
25 CORRECTIVE ACTION, OR RESTRUCTURING UNDER THE ACCOUNTABILITY
26 REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD.

27 (B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A RESIDENT TEACHER WHO
28 PARTICIPATES IN A RESIDENT TEACHER CERTIFICATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
29 ESTABLISHED BY AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE AND A
30 COUNTY BOARD THAT:

31 (1) LEADS TO A PARTICIPANT RECEIVING A RESIDENT TEACHER
32 CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT;

33 (2) INCLUDES TRAINING ON TEACHING TECHNIQUES AND THEORIES,
34 AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT; AND

35 (3) INCLUDES PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS
36 WITH COLLABORATIVE SUPERVISION AND MENTORING OF THE RESIDENT TEACHER
37 BY THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.

1 6-120.

2 (A) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH AN INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO
3 ENCOURAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO:

4 (1) ADOPT A TEACHER SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES YEAR-LONG
5 ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO TEACHERS THROUGH A TEACHER CONSULTING
6 PROGRAM IN WHICH CONSULTING TEACHERS ARE FULLY TRAINED AND APPLY
7 RIGOROUS TEACHING STANDARDS; AND

8 (2) IMPROVE TEACHER RETENTION DURING THE FIRST 5 YEARS OF
9 SERVICE.

10 (B) THE PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO COUNTY BOARDS
11 AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
12 TEACHER SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE TEACHER RETENTION.

13 (C) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AND
14 ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION, INCLUDING:

15 (1) PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS; AND

16 (2) CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS.

17 18-703.

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

19 (2) "Area of critical shortage OR NEED" means:

20 (I) [an] AN academic field or educational service identified by the
21 State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of this
22 section as having projected employment vacancies which substantially exceed
23 projected qualified graduates;

24 (II) A TITLE I SCHOOL; OR

25 (III) A PUBLIC SCHOOL IDENTIFIED FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT,
26 CORRECTIVE ACTION, OR RESTRUCTURING UNDER THE ACCOUNTABILITY
27 REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD.

28 [(3) "Area of geographic shortage" means a geographic area of the State
29 identified by the State Board of Education as less able than others in the State to
30 satisfy the need for public school teachers in an academic field identified for at least
31 3 years as an area of critical shortage.

32 [(4)] (3) "Degreed recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance
33 grant under this section who possesses an undergraduate or graduate degree.

34 [(5)] (4) "Educational service" means speech language pathology or
35 audiology services.

1 [(6)] (5) "Eligible institution" means an accredited college or university
2 that has a program of undergraduate or graduate studies that would certify the
3 recipient to teach in this State in an area of critical shortage and which is:

4 (i) Authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission;
5 and

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

7 [(7)] (6) "Nondegreed recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance
8 grant awarded under this section who does not possess an undergraduate or graduate
9 degree in an area of critical shortage.

10 [(8)] (7) "Public school" means a school in the public elementary and
11 secondary education system in this State.

12 [(9)] (8) "Service obligation" means to teach in the State in an area of
13 geographic or critical shortage in a public school.

14 [(10)] (9) "Teach" includes providing an educational service.

15 [(11)] (10) "Teacher" includes an individual who provides an educational
16 service in a public school.

17 [(12)] (11) "Teacher recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance
18 grant awarded under this section employed or certified as a teacher in a field which is
19 not an area of critical shortage.

20 [(13)] (12) "Tuition assistance" means any funds provided for the cost of
21 basic instructional charges, fees, room, board, or other related educational expenses.

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

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

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

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

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

34 (1) Qualify as follows:

1 (i) Have earned [60] 30 credits of undergraduate collegiate
2 education and be enrolled in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in a program leading to
3 certification to teach in an area of critical [or geographic] shortage OR NEED and be
4 selected by the Office on a competitive basis among qualified applicants based on
5 academic criteria, not limited to standardized tests, established by the State Board of
6 Education;

7 (ii) Have earned an undergraduate or graduate degree on or after
8 January 1, 1986, and be enrolled in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in courses
9 leading to certification to teach in an area of critical [or geographic] shortage OR
10 NEED and be selected among qualified applicants on a competitive basis based on
11 academic criteria established by the State Board of Education;

12 (iii) Have earned an undergraduate or graduate degree on or before
13 December 31, 1985, and be enrolled in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in courses
14 leading to certification to teach in an area of critical [or geographic] shortage OR
15 NEED and be selected among qualified applicants on a competitive basis based on
16 criteria established by the State Board of Education that exclude consideration of the
17 applicant's grade point average; or

18 (iv) Persons who are already teachers shall:

19 1. Be nominated by the superintendent of schools of the
20 system in which the person teaches or intends to teach;

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

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

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

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

30 (ii) A degreed recipient shall enroll in or sign a letter of intent to
31 enroll in courses leading to certification to teach in an area of critical [or geographic]
32 shortage OR NEED; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (f) (1) A nondegreed recipient may renew an award for [1 year] 2 YEARS if
23 the recipient:

24 (i) Remains an undergraduate student in an area of critical [or
25 geographic] shortage OR NEED; and

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

29 (2) A degreed recipient and a teacher recipient may renew an award for
30 1 year if that recipient maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

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

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

4 (3) Deletion of any academic field as an area of critical [or geographic]
5 shortage does not:

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

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

11 (h) (1) [Funds] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
12 SUBSECTION, FUNDS for the SHARON CHRISTA MCAULIFFE MEMORIAL Teacher
13 Education Tuition Assistance Program shall be as provided in the annual budget of
14 the Commission by the Governor.

15 (2) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET
16 SUBMISSION FOR THE SHARON CHRISTA MCAULIFFE MEMORIAL TEACHER
17 EDUCATION TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE SUM OF
18 THE APPROPRIATION INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET SUBMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007
19 AND:

20 (I) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 - \$1,000,000;

21 (II) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 - \$2,000,000; AND

22 (III) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 - \$3,000,000.

23 18-708.

24 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
25 INDICATED.

26 (2) "ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION" MEANS AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR
27 UNIVERSITY THAT HAS A PROGRAM OF STUDIES THAT WOULD LEAD TO A RECIPIENT
28 RECEIVING A TEACHING CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

29 (3) "GRANT" MEANS AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHING OPPORTUNITY GRANT
30 AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION.

31 (4) "RECIPIENT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AWARDED A GRANT
32 UNDER THIS SECTION.

33 (5) "RESIDENT TEACHER CERTIFICATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM" MEANS
34 A PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION AND A COUNTY BOARD
35 THAT:

1 (I) LEADS TO A PARTICIPANT RECEIVING A RESIDENT TEACHER
2 CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT;

3 (II) INCLUDES TRAINING ON TEACHING TECHNIQUES AND
4 THEORIES, AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT; AND

5 (III) INCLUDES PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME TEACHING
6 ASSIGNMENTS WITH DIRECT SUPERVISION AND MENTORING BY A QUALIFIED
7 TEACHER.

8 (6) "SERVICE OBLIGATION" MEANS THE OBLIGATION OF A RECIPIENT TO
9 TEACH FULL-TIME IN THE STATE AS A TEACHER IN A MARYLAND PUBLIC
10 ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL.

11 (B) THE OFFICE MAY AWARD ALTERNATIVE TEACHING OPPORTUNITY GRANTS
12 AS TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO:

13 (1) PURSUE A RESIDENT TEACHER CERTIFICATE BY ENROLLING IN A
14 RESIDENT TEACHER CERTIFICATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM; OR

15 (2) TAKE COURSE WORK AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION FOR THE
16 PURPOSE OF OBTAINING A TEACHING CERTIFICATE WHILE BEING EMPLOYED BY A
17 COUNTY BOARD IN A PARAPROFESSIONAL POSITION;

18 (C) EACH RECIPIENT OF A GRANT SHALL:

19 (1) BE ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION;

20 (2) SIGN A LETTER OF INTENT TO:

21 (I) BECOME A CERTIFIED TEACHER; AND

22 (II) FULFILL A SERVICE OBLIGATION AS REQUIRED BY THE OFFICE
23 ON COMPLETION OF REQUIRED STUDIES;

24 (3) USE THE GRANT AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION;

25 (4) BE SELECTED BY THE OFFICE FROM QUALIFIED APPLICANTS BASED
26 ON:

27 (I) COMPETITIVE STANDARDS; AND

28 (II) FINANCIAL NEED; AND

29 (5) SATISFY ANY ADDITIONAL CRITERIA THE OFFICE MAY ESTABLISH.

30 (D) A RECIPIENT MAY RENEW A GRANT IF THE RECIPIENT:

31 (1) REMAINS ENROLLED IN A PROGRAM OF STUDIES THAT WOULD LEAD
32 TO A TEACHING CERTIFICATE; AND

1 (2) SATISFIES ANY ADDITIONAL CRITERIA THE OFFICE MAY ESTABLISH.

2 (E) A GRANT MAY BE USED FOR:

3 (1) TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES;

4 (2) ROOM AND BOARD; AND

5 (3) BOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

6 (F) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2008, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE
7 \$500,000 IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION FOR GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THIS
8 SECTION.

9 18-1502.

10 (a) There is a program of loan assistance repayment known as the Janet L.
11 Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program in the State.

12 (b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the Office of
13 Student Financial Assistance shall assist in the repayment of the amount of any
14 higher education loan owed by an individual who:

15 (1) (I) Receives a graduate, professional, or undergraduate degree
16 from:

17 [(i)] 1. A college or university in the State of Maryland;

18 [(ii)] 2. A school of medicine; or

19 [(iii)] 3. A school of law;

20 (II) RECEIVES A RESIDENT TEACHER CERTIFICATE (RTC) FROM THE
21 DEPARTMENT AFTER COMPLETING A RESIDENT TEACHER CERTIFICATE
22 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AS DEFINED IN § 18-708(A) OF THIS TITLE; OR

23 (III) HAS TAKEN COURSE WORK TOWARDS OBTAINING A TEACHING
24 CERTIFICATE WHILE BEING EMPLOYED BY A COUNTY BOARD IN A
25 PARAPROFESSIONAL POSITION;

26 (2) Obtains eligible employment;

27 (3) Receives an income that is less than the maximum eligible total
28 income levels established by the Office, including any additional sources of income;
29 and

30 (4) Satisfies any other criteria established by the Office.

31 (c) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the
32 Office shall assist in the repayment of the amount of any higher education loan owed
33 by a physician who engages in primary care in the State or by a medical resident

1 specializing in primary care who agrees to practice for at least 2 years as a primary
2 care physician in a geographic area of the State that has been designated by the
3 Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene as being medically underserved with the
4 funds transferred to the Office by the Comptroller under § 14-207(c)(2)(i) of the
5 Health Occupations Article.

6 (2) A physician who engages in primary care is not precluded from
7 receiving assistance from the Office under subsection (b) of this section.

8 (3) Any unspent portions of the money that is transferred to the Office
9 for use under this section from the Board of Physicians Fund may not be transferred
10 to or revert to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the Fund
11 maintained by the Office to administer these programs to assist physicians engaged
12 in primary care as specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

13 (d) An applicant for assistance in the repayment of a commercial loan shall
14 demonstrate to the Office that the commercial loan was used for tuition, educational
15 expenses, or living expenses for graduate or undergraduate study.

16 (e) Assistance in the repayment of a loan from an entity set forth in §
17 18-1501(c)(2) of this subtitle shall require the approval of the Office.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 July 1, 2006.