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

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

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: April 1, 2006

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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; requiring an eligible school to have at  
5 least a certain number of teachers who have agreed to pursue certification by  
6 the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and signed a certain  
7 letter of intent; authorizing requiring the State Superintendent of Schools to  
8 select a certain number of public school systems and a certain number of public  
9 schools to participate in the Program; requiring certain county boards of  
10 education to give preference to certain teachers in employing certain staff  
11 development teachers; requiring authorizing the State to reimburse a county  
12 board of education for certain costs under certain conditions; ~~requiring eligible~~  
13 ~~schools to employ certain teachers who are certified or who are seeking to be~~  
14 ~~certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards for certain~~  
15 ~~purposes under the Program; requiring certain eligible schools to meet certain~~  
16 ~~conditions to receive State funding under the Program; requiring certain~~  
17 ~~teachers to be included in a certain State and local aid program; requiring the~~  
18 ~~Governor to include certain amounts in the annual budget submission for~~  
19 ~~certain programs for certain fiscal years; requiring the State Board of Education~~  
20 ~~to adopt certain regulations to implement a certain program; requiring the~~  
21 ~~Department to submit certain reports; requiring the State Board of Education to~~  
22 ~~establish an incentive program to encourage the use and expansion of~~  
23 ~~professional development schools in the State; prohibiting a public school or~~  
24 ~~public school system from employing an individual holding a Resident Teaching~~  
25 ~~Certificate at certain schools under certain circumstances; requiring the State~~  
26 ~~Board of Education to establish develop guidelines for an incentive program to~~  
27 encourage public school systems to adopt a teacher support system and improve

1 teacher retention; ~~altering the eligibility requirements for the Sharon Christa~~  
 2 ~~McAuliffe Memorial Teacher Education Award program to include certain~~  
 3 ~~students in certain areas of critical need; repealing certain eligibility under the~~  
 4 ~~program; altering the number of years certain students may receive a grant~~  
 5 ~~under the program; establishing the Alternative Teaching Opportunity Grant~~  
 6 ~~program in the Maryland Higher Education Commission; establishing eligibility~~  
 7 ~~criteria for scholarship awards under the program; authorizing awards to be~~  
 8 ~~used for certain purposes; altering the eligibility requirements for certain loan~~  
 9 ~~assistance repayments under the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment~~  
 10 ~~Program; requiring the Department to employ a certain staff member to~~  
 11 ~~administer a certain program; requiring the Governor to include certain~~  
 12 ~~amounts in the annual budget submission for certain programs for certain fiscal~~  
 13 ~~years; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt certain regulations to~~  
 14 ~~implement certain programs requiring the Department to study whether the~~  
 15 ~~awarding of certain alternative teaching opportunity grants is advisable and~~  
 16 ~~feasible; defining certain terms; and generally relating to public school teachers~~  
 17 ~~and programs to increase the availability of qualified teachers in public schools.~~

18 BY adding to

19 Article - Education  
 20 Section ~~6-117, 6-118, 6-119, 6-120, and 18-708~~ and 6-118  
 21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 22 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

24 Article - Education  
 25 Section ~~18-703 and~~ 18-1502  
 26 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 27 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

30 **Article - Education**

31 6-117.

32 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
 33 INDICATED.

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

36 (3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER  
 37 PILOT PROGRAM.

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

1 (I) TITLE I SCHOOL; OR

2 (II) SCHOOL IDENTIFIED FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT,  
3 CORRECTIVE ACTION, OR RESTRUCTURING UNDER THE ACCOUNTABILITY  
4 REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD.

5 (B) ~~(+)~~ THERE IS A NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER PILOT PROGRAM  
6 IN THE STATE.

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

9 ~~(C)~~ ~~(+)~~ THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL SELECT THREE PUBLIC  
10 SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS  
11 SUBSECTION FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS.

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

15 ~~(3)~~ AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL MUST EMPLOY THREE NBC TEACHERS IN  
16 EACH FISCAL YEAR THE SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM.

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

22 ~~(+)~~ FOR NBC TEACHERS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

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

25 2. NO LESS THAN 33% TEACHER LEADERSHIP AND  
26 MENTORING ACTIVITIES; AND

27 ~~(H)~~ FOR NBC TEACHERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS:

28 1. TEACHING FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF THREE CLASS  
29 PERIODS; AND

30 2. PROVIDING TEACHER LEADERSHIP AND MENTORING  
31 ACTIVITIES FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF TWO CLASS PERIODS.

32 ~~(D)~~ ~~(+)~~ THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL:

33 ~~(+)~~ FOR WHICH THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OR DESIGNEE HAS  
34 MET AND CONSULTED WITH INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS BEFORE HIRING A NEW  
35 PRINCIPAL FOR THE SCHOOL;

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

3                    ~~(III)~~    THAT HAS UNDERGONE A STAFF RESTRUCTURING IN WHICH  
4 TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS HAVE MADE A 3 YEAR COMMITMENT TO WORK AT  
5 THE SCHOOL; AND

6                    ~~(IV)~~    THAT EMPLOYS THREE NBC TEACHERS.

7                    ~~(2)~~     WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTY BOARD, THE  
8 STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL SELECT SIX ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN THE STATE TO  
9 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION FOR A  
10 PERIOD OF 3 YEARS.

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

16                   ~~(I)~~     FOR NBC TEACHERS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

17                                 ~~1.~~     NO MORE THAN 67% TEACHING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES;  
18 AND

19                                 ~~2.~~     NO LESS THAN 33% TEACHER LEADERSHIP AND  
20 MENTORING ACTIVITIES; AND

21                   ~~(II)~~    FOR NBC TEACHERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS:

22                                 ~~1.~~     TEACHING FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF THREE CLASS  
23 PERIODS; AND

24                                 ~~2.~~     PROVIDING TEACHER LEADERSHIP AND MENTORING  
25 ACTIVITIES FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF TWO CLASS PERIODS.

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

31                   ~~(E)~~    ~~(C)~~    (1)     THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
32 PROGRAM AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL IN THE STATE WITH MUST HAVE AT LEAST THREE  
33 TEACHERS WHO HAVE:

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

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

3 (2) (I) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL SELECT THREE PUBLIC  
4 SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS.

5 (II) ~~WITH THE APPROVAL OF~~ IN CONSULTATION WITH THE  
6 RESPECTIVE COUNTY BOARD, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL SELECT SIX FIVE  
7 ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN THE STATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED  
8 UNDER THIS SUBSECTION FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS FROM AMONG THE SCHOOL  
9 SYSTEMS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

10 (3) (I) A COUNTY BOARD SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO AN NBC  
11 TEACHER IN EMPLOYING A STAFF DEVELOPMENT TEACHER AT AN ELIGIBLE  
12 SCHOOL.

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

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

20 ~~(F)~~ (D) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2008 THROUGH 2010, THE GOVERNOR SHALL  
21 INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION ~~\$1,800,000~~ \$320,000 FOR THE  
22 PROGRAM.

23 ~~(G)~~ (E) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AND  
24 ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

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

29 ~~6-118.~~

30 (A) ~~IN THIS SECTION, "PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL" MEANS A~~  
31 ~~PARTNERSHIP, BETWEEN AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE~~  
32 ~~AND ONE OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THAT PROVIDES ACADEMIC AND CLASSROOM~~  
33 ~~TRAINING FOR TEACHING CANDIDATES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT~~  
34 ~~OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS.~~

35 ~~(B)~~ (I) ~~THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH AN INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO~~  
36 ~~ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF PROFESSIONAL~~  
37 ~~DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.~~

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

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

6           ~~(1) PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS; AND~~

7           ~~(2) CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS.~~

8 ~~6-119.~~

9           ~~(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A COUNTY~~  
 10 ~~BOARD MAY NOT EMPLOY AN INDIVIDUAL HOLDING A RESIDENT TEACHER~~  
 11 ~~CERTIFICATE TO TEACH AT A SCHOOL IDENTIFIED FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT,~~  
 12 ~~CORRECTIVE ACTION, OR RESTRUCTURING UNDER THE ACCOUNTABILITY~~  
 13 ~~REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD.~~

14           ~~(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A RESIDENT TEACHER WHO~~  
 15 ~~PARTICIPATES IN A RESIDENT TEACHER CERTIFICATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM~~  
 16 ~~ESTABLISHED BY AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE AND A~~  
 17 ~~COUNTY BOARD THAT:~~

18           ~~(1) LEADS TO A PARTICIPANT RECEIVING A RESIDENT TEACHER~~  
 19 ~~CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT;~~

20           ~~(2) INCLUDES TRAINING ON TEACHING TECHNIQUES AND THEORIES,~~  
 21 ~~AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT; AND~~

22           ~~(3) INCLUDES PART TIME OR FULL TIME TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS~~  
 23 ~~WITH COLLABORATIVE SUPERVISION AND MENTORING OF THE RESIDENT TEACHER~~  
 24 ~~BY THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.~~

25 ~~6-120. 6-118.~~

26           (A) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ~~ESTABLISH~~ DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR AN  
 27 INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO:

28           (1) ADOPT A TEACHER SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES YEAR-LONG  
 29 ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO TEACHERS THROUGH A TEACHER CONSULTING  
 30 PROGRAM IN WHICH CONSULTING TEACHERS ARE FULLY TRAINED AND APPLY  
 31 RIGOROUS TEACHING STANDARDS; AND

32           (2) IMPROVE TEACHER RETENTION DURING THE FIRST 5 YEARS OF  
 33 SERVICE.

34           (B) THE PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE IN DEVELOPING THE GUIDELINES UNDER  
 35 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE BOARD SHALL CONDUCT AN  
 36 ASSESSMENT OF THE ADVISABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING COMPETITIVE

1 GRANTS TO COUNTY BOARDS AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ASSIST IN THE  
 2 DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A TEACHER SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND  
 3 INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE TEACHER RETENTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

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

6 (1) ~~PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS; AND~~

7 (2) ~~CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS IT IS THE~~  
 8 ~~INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT, IF MONEY BECOMES AVAILABLE, THE~~  
 9 ~~GOVERNOR INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATION IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR GRANTS FOR~~  
 10 ~~TEACHER SUPPORT INCENTIVE PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH~~  
 11 ~~THE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

12 ~~48-703.~~

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

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

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

19 (II) ~~A TITLE I SCHOOL; OR~~

20 (III) ~~A PUBLIC SCHOOL IDENTIFIED FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT,~~  
 21 ~~CORRECTIVE ACTION, OR RESTRUCTURING UNDER THE ACCOUNTABILITY~~  
 22 ~~REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD.~~

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

27 (4) (3) ~~"Degreed recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance~~  
 28 ~~grant under this section who possesses an undergraduate or graduate degree.~~

29 (5) (4) ~~"Educational service" means speech language pathology or~~  
 30 ~~audiology services.~~

31 (6) (5) ~~"Eligible institution" means an accredited college or university~~  
 32 ~~that has a program of undergraduate or graduate studies that would certify the~~  
 33 ~~recipient to teach in this State in an area of critical shortage and which is:~~

34 (i) ~~Authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission;~~  
 35 ~~and~~

36 (ii) ~~Approved by the State Board of Education.~~

1           ~~[(7)]~~ (6) "Nondegreed recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance  
2 grant awarded under this section who does not possess an undergraduate or graduate  
3 degree in an area of critical shortage.

4           ~~[(8)]~~ (7) "Public school" means a school in the public elementary and  
5 secondary education system in this State.

6           ~~[(9)]~~ (8) "Service obligation" means to teach in the State in an area of  
7 geographic or critical shortage in a public school.

8           ~~[(10)]~~ (9) "Teach" includes providing an educational service.

9           ~~[(11)]~~ (10) "Teacher" includes an individual who provides an educational  
10 service in a public school.

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

14           ~~[(13)]~~ (12) "Tuition assistance" means any funds provided for the cost of  
15 basic instructional charges, fees, room, board, or other related educational expenses.

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

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

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

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

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

28           (1) Qualify as follows:

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

35                   (ii) Have earned an undergraduate or graduate degree on or after  
36 January 1, 1986, and be enrolled in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in courses



1 leading to certification to teach in an area of critical [or geographic] shortage OR  
 2 NEED and be selected among qualified applicants on a competitive basis based on  
 3 academic criteria established by the State Board of Education;

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

10 (iv) Persons who are already teachers shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (2) A degreed recipient and a teacher recipient may renew an award for  
23 1 year if that recipient maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 (2) ~~THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET~~  
 9 ~~SUBMISSION FOR THE SHARON CHRISTA MCAULIFFE MEMORIAL TEACHER~~  
 10 ~~EDUCATION TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE SUM OF~~  
 11 ~~THE APPROPRIATION INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET SUBMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007~~  
 12 ~~AND:~~

13 (I) ~~FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 — \$1,000,000;~~

14 (II) ~~FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 — \$2,000,000; AND~~

15 (III) ~~FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 — \$3,000,000.~~

16 ~~18-708.~~

17 (A) (1) ~~IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS~~  
 18 ~~INDICATED:~~

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

22 (3) ~~"GRANT" MEANS AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHING OPPORTUNITY GRANT~~  
 23 ~~AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

24 (4) ~~"RECIPIENT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AWARDED A GRANT~~  
 25 ~~UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

26 (5) ~~"RESIDENT TEACHER CERTIFICATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM" MEANS~~  
 27 ~~A PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION AND A COUNTY BOARD~~  
 28 ~~THAT:~~

29 (I) ~~LEADS TO A PARTICIPANT RECEIVING A RESIDENT TEACHER~~  
 30 ~~CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT;~~

31 (II) ~~INCLUDES TRAINING ON TEACHING TECHNIQUES AND~~  
 32 ~~THEORIES, AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT; AND~~

33 (III) ~~INCLUDES PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME TEACHING~~  
 34 ~~ASSIGNMENTS WITH DIRECT SUPERVISION AND MENTORING BY A QUALIFIED~~  
 35 ~~TEACHER.~~

1           (6)     ~~"SERVICE OBLIGATION" MEANS THE OBLIGATION OF A RECIPIENT TO~~  
2 ~~TEACH FULL TIME IN THE STATE AS A TEACHER IN A MARYLAND PUBLIC~~  
3 ~~ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL.~~

4     ~~(B)     THE OFFICE MAY AWARD ALTERNATIVE TEACHING OPPORTUNITY GRANTS~~  
5 ~~AS TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO:~~

6           (1)     ~~PURSUE A RESIDENT TEACHER CERTIFICATE BY ENROLLING IN A~~  
7 ~~RESIDENT TEACHER CERTIFICATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM; OR~~

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

11     ~~(C)     EACH RECIPIENT OF A GRANT SHALL:~~

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

13           (2)     ~~SIGN A LETTER OF INTENT TO:~~

14                 ~~(I)     BECOME A CERTIFIED TEACHER; AND~~

15                 ~~(II)    FULFILL A SERVICE OBLIGATION AS REQUIRED BY THE OFFICE~~  
16 ~~ON COMPLETION OF REQUIRED STUDIES;~~

17           (3)     ~~USE THE GRANT AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION;~~

18           (4)     ~~BE SELECTED BY THE OFFICE FROM QUALIFIED APPLICANTS BASED~~  
19 ~~ON:~~

20                 ~~(I)     COMPETITIVE STANDARDS; AND~~

21                 ~~(II)    FINANCIAL NEED; AND~~

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

23     ~~(D)     A RECIPIENT MAY RENEW A GRANT IF THE RECIPIENT:~~

24           (1)     ~~REMAINS ENROLLED IN A PROGRAM OF STUDIES THAT WOULD LEAD~~  
25 ~~TO A TEACHING CERTIFICATE; AND~~

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

27     ~~(E)     A GRANT MAY BE USED FOR:~~

28           (1)     ~~TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES;~~

29           (2)     ~~ROOM AND BOARD; AND~~

30           (3)     ~~BOOKS AND SUPPLIES.~~

1 ~~(F) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2008, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE~~  
 2 ~~\$500,000 IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION FOR GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THIS~~  
 3 ~~SECTION.~~

4 18-1502.

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

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

10 (1) (I) Receives a graduate, professional, or undergraduate degree  
 11 from:

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

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

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

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

18 (III) ~~HAS TAKEN COURSE WORK TOWARDS OBTAINING A TEACHING~~  
 19 ~~CERTIFICATE WHILE BEING EMPLOYED BY A COUNTY BOARD IN A~~  
 20 ~~PARAPROFESSIONAL POSITION AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHING PREPARATION~~  
 21 ~~PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT;~~

22 (2) Obtains eligible employment;

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

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

27 (c) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the  
 28 Office shall assist in the repayment of the amount of any higher education loan owed  
 29 by a physician who engages in primary care in the State or by a medical resident  
 30 specializing in primary care who agrees to practice for at least 2 years as a primary  
 31 care physician in a geographic area of the State that has been designated by the  
 32 Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene as being medically underserved with the  
 33 funds transferred to the Office by the Comptroller under § 14-207(c)(2)(i) of the  
 34 Health Occupations Article.

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

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

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

9       (e)       Assistance in the repayment of a loan from an entity set forth in §  
10 18-1501(c)(2) of this subtitle shall require the approval of the Office.

11       (F)       THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EMPLOY NOT MORE THAN ONE STAFF MEMBER  
12 TO ADMINISTER THE DEPARTMENT'S PORTION OF THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED  
13 UNDER THIS SECTION.

14       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

15       The Department of Education shall conduct a study as to the advisability and  
16 feasibility of awarding alternative teaching opportunity grants as tuition assistance  
17 grants to individuals who:

18           (1)       pursue a resident teacher certificate by enrolling in a resident  
19 teacher certificate partnership program; or

20           (2)       take course work at an eligible institution for the purpose of  
21 obtaining a teaching certificate while being employed by a county board of education  
22 for a paraprofessional position.

23       ~~SECTION 2. 3.~~ AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
24 effect July 1, 2006.