

HOUSE BILL 1222

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4lr2164

By: **Delegates Haynes, Anderson, Aumann, Barkley, Barnes, Barve, Bates, Beidle, Bobo, Bohanan, Boteler, Branch, Braveboy, Bromwell, Burns, Cane, Cardin, Carr, Carter, Clagett, Conway, Costa, Davis, DeBoy, Dumais, Eckardt, Elliott, Frank, Frush, Gaines, Gilchrist, Glenn, Griffith, Gutierrez, Guzzone, Hammen, Healey, Hixson, Howard, Ivey, James, Jameson, Jones, Kach, Kaiser, K. Kelly, Kipke, Kramer, Lafferty, Lee, Love, Luedtke, Malone, McHale, McIntosh, W. Miller, Minnick, Mitchell, Mizeur, Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Niemann, Oaks, Olszewski, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, Proctor, B. Robinson, Rosenberg, Rudolph, Schuh, Simmons, Smigiel, Sophocleus, Stein, Stocksdale, Tarrant, F. Turner, V. Turner, Valderrama, Vallario, Vaughn, Weir, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2014

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ruth M. Kirk Public Social Work Scholarship**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the workforce shortage fields eligible for a Workforce
4 Shortage Student Assistance grant to include social workers under certain
5 circumstances; naming a certain grant to be the Ruth M. Kirk Public Social
6 Work Scholarship; and generally relating to social workers as a workforce
7 shortage field under the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance grants
8 program.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 18–708
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 18-708.

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

3 (2) "Advisory Council" means the Advisory Council on Workforce
4 Shortage.

5 (3) "Eligible institution" means a public or private nonprofit
6 institution of higher education in this State that possesses a certificate of approval
7 from the Commission.

8 (4) "Fund" means the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant
9 Fund.

10 (5) "Grant" means the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance grant.

11 (6) "Public good or benefit" means service to low-income or
12 underserved residents or areas of the State in an occupation in the public sector or in
13 an organization, institution, association, society, or corporation that is exempt from
14 taxation under § 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

15 (b) There is a program of Workforce Shortage Student Assistance grants
16 under this section for students who pledge to work in fields of critical shortage in the
17 State on completion of their studies.

18 (c) The purpose of the program is to:

19 (1) Provide financial assistance to students enrolled at institutions of
20 higher education in the State; and

21 (2) Address the workforce shortage needs of the State.

22 (d) A recipient of a Workforce Shortage Student Assistance grant under this
23 section shall:

24 (1) Be a resident of the State;

25 (2) Be selected by the Office from qualified applicants;

26 (3) Sign a letter of intent to enroll at an eligible institution in the
27 State in an eligible program as specified for each field in which there is a critical
28 shortage in this State as provided in this section;

29 (4) Sign a letter of intent to perform the service obligation on
30 completion of the recipient's required studies;

31 (5) Accept any other conditions attached to the grant;

1 (6) Satisfy any additional criteria the Commission may establish; and

2 (7) After completion of studies in an eligible program, perform the
3 service obligation as specified for each field in which there is a critical shortage, as
4 provided in this section.

5 (e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (5) of this subsection, the
6 Commission shall on a biennial basis:

7 (i) Identify workforce shortage fields in the State;

8 (ii) Designate eligible workforce shortage fields under the grant
9 program; and

10 (iii) Remove from the grant program any field that the
11 Commission determines no longer qualifies as a workforce shortage.

12 (2) The Secretary shall appoint an Advisory Council on Workforce
13 Shortage to:

14 (i) Identify workforce shortage fields in the State; and

15 (ii) Recommend to the Commission:

16 1. Priority workforce shortage fields to be included in the
17 grant program; and

18 2. The removal of fields that in the Advisory Council's
19 judgment no longer qualify as workforce shortage fields.

20 (3) In making recommendations to the Commission, the Advisory
21 Council shall consider whether a workforce shortage field provides a public good or
22 benefit to the citizens of Maryland.

23 (4) The Advisory Council shall include the following members:

24 (i) The Secretary of Higher Education or designee;

25 (ii) The Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation or
26 designee;

27 (iii) One representative from the Governor's Workforce
28 Investment Board, appointed by the Governor;

29 (iv) The Secretary of Business and Economic Development or
30 designee;

- 1 (v) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene or designee;
- 2 (vi) The State Superintendent of Schools or designee;
- 3 (vii) One representative of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by
4 the President of the Senate;
- 5 (viii) One representative of the Maryland House of Delegates,
6 appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 7 (ix) Two representatives from the University System of
8 Maryland, appointed by the Chancellor;
- 9 (x) The President of Morgan State University or designee;
- 10 (xi) The President of St. Mary's College or designee; and
- 11 (xii) Representatives nominated by the following organizations
12 and appointed by the Secretary of Higher Education:
- 13 1. One representative from the Maryland Chamber of
14 Commerce;
- 15 2. One representative from the Washington Board of
16 Trade;
- 17 3. One representative from the Greater Baltimore
18 Committee;
- 19 4. Two representatives from the Maryland Independent
20 College and University Association;
- 21 5. Two representatives from the Maryland Association of
22 Community Colleges;
- 23 6. One representative from the Maryland Association of
24 Nonprofit Associations; and
- 25 7. One representative from the Financial Assistance
26 Advisory Council representing a financial aid office at an institution of higher
27 education.
- 28 (5) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph,
29 the following workforce shortage fields shall be included in the grant program:

1 1. School teachers (the grant to be known as the Sharon
2 Christa McAuliffe Memorial Teacher Scholarship);

3 **2. SOCIAL WORKERS (THE GRANT TO BE KNOWN AS**
4 **THE RUTH M. KIRK PUBLIC SOCIAL WORK SCHOLARSHIP);**

5 [2.] **3.** Nurses;

6 [3.] **4.** Child care providers;

7 [4.] **5.** Developmental disabilities, mental health,
8 child welfare, and juvenile justice providers (the grant to be known as the Ida G. and
9 L. Leonard Ruben Scholarships);

10 [5.] **6.** Physical and occupational therapists and
11 assistants; and

12 [6.] **7.** Public servants (the grant to be known as the
13 William Donald Schaefer Scholarship and the grant to be known as the Parren J.
14 Mitchell Public Service Scholarship).

15 (ii) The Commission may remove a shortage field specified in
16 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph if in the Commission's judgment the field no longer
17 qualifies as a workforce shortage field.

18 (6) A grant recipient in a workforce shortage field that is removed
19 from the grant program may continue to receive renewal awards under the program.

20 (f) Each fiscal year, the Commission shall determine the number of grants to
21 be awarded in eligible workforce shortage fields based on the:

22 (1) Priority of the workforce shortage field;

23 (2) Severity of the workforce shortage in the field; and

24 (3) Availability of funds.

25 (g) (1) The Office shall annually select eligible students and offer a grant
26 to each student selected to be used at an eligible institution of the student's choice.

27 (2) Eligible students shall be selected based on academic
28 accomplishment and financial need, as determined by standards established and
29 approved by the Commission.

30 (3) Each grant shall be renewable for a maximum of 5 years
31 subsequent to the original grant if the recipient:

1 (i) Continues to meet the qualifications specified in subsection
2 (d) of this section; and

3 (ii) Meets satisfactory academic progress standards as
4 determined by the eligible institution.

5 (h) A grant recipient:

6 (1) May be enrolled at an eligible institution on a part-time or
7 full-time basis;

8 (2) Shall earn at least 12 undergraduate or 9 graduate credit hours in
9 each academic year, including summer sessions;

10 (3) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, shall be an
11 undergraduate student at an eligible institution; and

12 (4) May be a graduate student if the Office determines that the
13 shortage field requires employees with a graduate level education.

14 (i) (1) In this subsection, “cost of attendance” means the equivalent
15 annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate student at the 4-year
16 public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other
17 than the University of Maryland University College and University of Maryland,
18 Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate.

19 (2) Subject to paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of this subsection, the
20 Commission shall establish in guidelines the annual grant awards under this section.

21 (3) Annual grant awards shall be within the following ranges:

22 (i) For a part-time student attending a 2-year eligible
23 institution – \$1,000 and 12.5% of cost of attendance;

24 (ii) For a full-time student attending a 2-year eligible
25 institution – \$2,000 and 25% of cost of attendance;

26 (iii) For a part-time student attending a 4-year eligible
27 institution – \$2,000 and 25% of cost of attendance; and

28 (iv) For a full-time student attending a 4-year eligible
29 institution – \$4,000 and 50% of cost of attendance.

30 (4) For a student taking courses during a summer session to meet the
31 minimum number of credit hours for full-time or part-time status, the Commission

1 shall distribute grant awards to the student in the spring and summer sessions in
2 amounts it determines to be appropriate.

3 (5) A student who is enrolled in an academic program that includes a
4 mandatory summer academic session as part of the approved curriculum may receive
5 an additional award not to exceed \$1,000 per calendar year.

6 (j) The grant award may be used at any eligible institution for educational
7 expenses as defined by the Commission, including tuition, mandatory fees, and room
8 and board.

9 (k) (1) A grant recipient shall perform a service obligation in the
10 recipient's field of critical shortage in:

11 (i) A full-time position at a rate of 1 year for each year that the
12 recipient receives a grant awarded under this section; or

13 (ii) A part-time position at a rate of 2 years for each year that
14 the recipient receives a grant awarded under this section.

15 (2) The Commission may establish alternative service obligation
16 requirements for designated workforce shortage fields to address statewide and
17 regional needs.

18 (l) (1) A grant recipient shall repay the Commission the funds received as
19 set forth in § 18-112 of this title if the recipient does not:

20 (i) Earn at least 12 undergraduate or 9 graduate credit hours in
21 each academic year in which the student receives assistance, including summer
22 sessions;

23 (ii) Complete the specified degree, attain the licensure or
24 certification required, or fulfill other requirements as provided in this section; or

25 (iii) Perform the service obligation required under subsection (k)
26 of this section.

27 (2) The Office shall waive the repayment of a grant award at a rate of:

28 (i) 1 year for each year that the recipient performs the service
29 obligation on a full-time basis; or

30 (ii) 6 months for each year that the recipient performs the
31 service obligation on a part-time basis.

32 (3) A recipient shall begin repayment at any time during the period
33 that the recipient is no longer performing the service obligation.

1 (4) A recipient may delay repayment as long as the recipient remains
2 a student enrolled at least part-time in a degree-granting program.

3 (5) Except as otherwise provided in this section, repayment shall be
4 made to the State within 6 years after the repayment period begins and shall follow a
5 repayment schedule established by the Office.

6 (6) The Office may waive or defer repayment in the event of disability
7 or extended sickness which prevents the recipient from fulfilling the service obligation
8 required under this section.

9 (7) The Office shall grant a deferment from the service obligation
10 required under this section to:

11 (i) An individual who has been assigned military duty outside
12 the State; or

13 (ii) The spouse of an individual who has been assigned military
14 duty outside the State.

15 (m) (1) This subsection applies to recipients of the William Donald
16 Schaefer Scholarship specified in subsection (e)(5) of this section.

17 (2) The Commission shall annually select eligible students and offer
18 grants to students who demonstrate outstanding potential for and who plan to pursue
19 a career in public service to assist in providing legal services to low-income residents
20 in the State.

21 (3) In making William Donald Schaefer Scholarship awards under this
22 section, the Commission shall endeavor to select award recipients who are
23 representative of the State's rich cultural, geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender
24 diversity.

25 (4) Each individual awarded a William Donald Schaefer Scholarship
26 under this section must have indicated and demonstrated to the Commission a serious
27 intent to enter public service on the completion of the student's educational program.

28 (n) (1) This subsection applies to recipients of the Parren J. Mitchell
29 Public Service Scholarship specified in subsection (e)(5) of this section.

30 (2) The Commission shall annually select eligible students and offer
31 grants to students who demonstrate outstanding potential for and who plan to pursue
32 a career in public service and assist in providing:

33 (i) Social work services to low-income residents in the State;

1 (ii) Nursing services in nursing shortage areas in the State as
2 defined in § 18–802 of this title; or

3 (iii) Other services in the public or nonprofit sectors in which
4 there is a shortage of qualified practitioners to low-income or underserved residents or
5 areas of the State.

6 (3) In making Parren J. Mitchell Public Service Scholarship awards
7 under this section, the Commission shall endeavor to select award recipients who are
8 representative of the State's rich cultural, geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender
9 diversity.

10 (4) Each individual awarded a Parren J. Mitchell Public Service
11 Scholarship under this section must have indicated and demonstrated to the
12 Commission a serious intent to enter public service on the completion of the student's
13 educational program.

14 (o) (1) There is a Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Fund in
15 the Commission.

16 (2) The Commission shall administer the Fund.

17 (3) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to §
18 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

19 (4) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately and the
20 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

21 (5) The Commission:

22 (i) May accept any gift or grant from any person or corporation
23 for the Fund;

24 (ii) Shall use any gift or grant that it receives for a grant award
25 from the Fund; and

26 (iii) Shall deposit any gift or grant that it receives for the Fund
27 with the State Treasurer.

28 (6) (i) At the end of the fiscal year, the Commission shall prepare
29 an annual report on the Fund that includes an accounting of all financial receipts and
30 expenditures to and from the Fund.

31 (ii) The Commission shall submit a copy of the report to the
32 General Assembly as provided under § 2–1246 of the State Government Article.

1 (p) A recipient may hold a Workforce Shortage Student Assistance grant and
2 any other State grant or scholarship awarded by the Office provided that the total of
3 all grants and scholarships does not exceed:

4 (1) The student's total cost of attendance, as certified by the
5 institution where the student is enrolled; and

6 (2) The cost of attendance, as defined in subsection (i) of this section.

7 (q) Funds for the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance grant program
8 shall be as provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the Governor.

9 (r) The Commission shall adopt guidelines or regulations necessary to
10 implement this section.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2014.