

SENATE BILL 523

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4r1146
CF 4r3208

By: **Senators Feldman and Glassman**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 28, 2014

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study a Program for Interest-Free Loans to STEM College**
3 **Students in Maryland**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study a Program for Interest-Free
5 Loans to STEM College Students in Maryland; providing for the composition,
6 cochairs, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force
7 from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of
8 certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations
9 regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and
10 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a
11 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
12 the Task Force to Study a Program for Interest-Free Loans to STEM College
13 Students in Maryland.

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That:

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study a Program for Interest-Free Loans to
17 STEM College Students in Maryland.

18 (b) The Task Force consists of the following ~~15~~ 13 members:

19 (1) ~~two members~~ one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by
20 the President of the Senate;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (2) ~~two members~~ one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by
2 the Speaker of the House;

3 (3) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;

4 (4) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the
5 Secretary's designee; and

6 (5) the following nine members, appointed by the Governor:

7 (i) three representatives of the technology industry in the
8 State;

9 (ii) one representative of the Northeast Maryland Higher
10 Education Advisory Board;

11 (iii) one representative of the Tech Council of Maryland;

12 (iv) one representative of the Aberdeen Proving Ground;

13 (v) one representative of Fort George G. Meade;

14 (vi) one representative of Fort Detrick; and

15 (vii) one representative of Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

16 (c) (1) The President of the Senate shall designate a Senate cochair of the
17 Task Force.

18 (2) The Speaker of the House of Delegates shall designate a House
19 cochair of the Task Force.

20 (d) The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall provide staff for the
21 Task Force.

22 (e) A member of the Task Force:

23 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

24 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
25 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

26 (f) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations regarding:

27 (1) interest-free loans or other financing methods employed by other
28 states for students attending college within those states;

1 (2) interest-free loans or other financing methods employed by other
2 states for students attending college within those states that focus on or are limited to
3 students engaged in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curricula;

4 (3) the use of public-private partnerships to provide funding, in whole
5 or in part, for students engaged in STEM curricula who enroll in an apprenticeship
6 program or are employed in the State following completion of a course of study;

7 (4) the performance of secondary schools or courses of study in
8 preparing students for college or postsecondary education courses of study in STEM
9 curricula;

10 (5) the potential benefits of creating additional manufacturing or
11 technology jobs in the State related to employment that is connected with research or
12 similar activities at Maryland military installations; and

13 (6) the efficacy of a pilot project to provide State assistance to college
14 students engaged in STEM curricula in a local jurisdiction adjacent to a military
15 installation in the State that is engaged in research or similar activities.

16 (g) On or before June 30, 2015, the Task Force shall report its findings and
17 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
18 Government Article, the General Assembly.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30,
21 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
22 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.