

## Chapter 290

**(House Bill 1015)**

AN ACT concerning

**Study of Student Loan Refinancing in Maryland**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Maryland Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority, in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services and any other appropriate agencies, to study the expansion or creation of an appropriate bonding authority for the refinancing of student loans in Maryland; requiring the study to examine certain matters and to make findings and recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Maryland Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority to report ~~its~~ their findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the study of student loan refinancing in Maryland.

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

(a) The Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Maryland Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority, in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services and any other appropriate agencies, shall study the expansion or creation of an appropriate bonding authority for the refinancing of student loans in Maryland.

(b) The study shall examine:

(1) whether there are any entities in the State that have bonding authority and currently have the capability and the capacity to offer a student loan refinancing program;

(2) whether there are any entities in the State that have bonding authority and do not currently have the capability ~~and~~ or the capacity to offer a student loan refinancing program, but might be a viable option to offer the program if certain changes were made to the entity;

(3) student loan refinancing programs offered in other states, including eligibility requirements, essential program characteristics, and start-up and operational costs; and

(4) the role of counties or jurisdictions in offering student loan refinancing programs.

(c) The study shall make findings and recommendations on:

(1) the entities in the State that are best suited to offer a student loan refinancing program and whether any statutory changes would be necessary to enable those entities to offer a program;

(2) program characteristics that are essential for a successful student loan refinancing program in Maryland;

(3) the projected start-up and operational costs for a successful student loan refinancing program in Maryland;

(4) best practices and lessons learned from the review of other states' student loan refinancing programs; and

(5) the role of counties or jurisdictions in offering student loan refinancing programs.

(d) On or before September 30, 2017, the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Maryland Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority shall report ~~its~~ their findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of May 31, 2018, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

**Approved by the Governor, April 26, 2016.**