

SENATE BILL 991

F2

(8lr3564)

ENROLLED BILL

— Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/Ways and Means —

Introduced by **Senator Jennings**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Farmers**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for
4 Farmers; requiring the Office of Student Financial Assistance in the Maryland
5 Higher Education Commission to assist in the repayment of a certain loan owed by
6 certain farmers; requiring the Office, in consultation with the Department of
7 Agriculture, to adopt certain regulations; specifying that funds for the Program shall
8 be as provided in the State budget; requiring a certain annual report to include
9 certain information about the Program; altering the requirements of a certain
10 annual report; making a stylistic change; defining certain terms; and generally
11 relating to the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Farmers.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Education

14 Section 18–1505

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.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

3 BY adding to
4 Article – Education
5 Section 18–28A–01 through 18–28A–05 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 28A.
6 Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Farmers”
7 Annotated Code of Maryland
8 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

11 **Article – Education**

12 18–1505.

13 Subject to § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the Office [of Student Financial
14 Assistance] shall report to the General Assembly by January 1 of each year on the
15 implementation of the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program **AND THE**
16 **REQUIREMENTS OF § 18–28A–05 OF THIS TITLE.**

17 **SUBTITLE 28A. MARYLAND LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR**
18 **FARMERS.**

19 **18–28A–01.**

20 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
21 **INDICATED.**

22 **(B) “DEPARTMENT” MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**

23 **(C) “HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN” MEANS A LOAN THAT IS OBTAINED FOR**
24 **TUITION, EDUCATION EXPENSES, OR LIVING EXPENSES FOR UNDERGRADUATE OR**
25 **GRADUATE STUDY LEADING TO A DEGREE IN AGRICULTURE OR AN**
26 **AGRICULTURE–RELATED FIELD, INCLUDING FARMING.**

27 **(D) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT**
28 **PROGRAM FOR FARMERS.**

29 **18–28A–02.**

30 **(A) THERE IS A MARYLAND LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR**
31 **FARMERS IN THE STATE.**

1 **(B) THE OFFICE SHALL ASSIST IN THE REPAYMENT OF A HIGHER**
2 **EDUCATION LOAN OWED BY A FARMER WHO:**

3 **(1) HAS RECEIVED AN UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE DEGREE IN**
4 **AGRICULTURE OR AN AGRICULTURE-RELATED FIELD FROM A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE**
5 **NONPROFIT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION LOCATED IN THE STATE;**

6 **(2) HAS BEEN A FARMER FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS BUT NOT MORE THAN**
7 **10 YEARS SINCE OBTAINING THE DEGREE;**

8 **(3) RECEIVES AN INCOME THAT IS LESS THAN THE MAXIMUM**
9 **ELIGIBLE TOTAL INCOME LEVELS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE, IN CONSULTATION**
10 **WITH THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING ANY ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INCOME; AND**

11 **(4) SATISFIES ANY OTHER CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE.**

12 **18-28A-03.**

13 **THE OFFICE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL ADOPT**
14 **REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH:**

15 **(1) THE MAXIMUM STARTING INCOME FOR ELIGIBILITY IN THE**
16 **PROGRAM;**

17 **(2) THE MAXIMUM TOTAL INCOME FOR ELIGIBILITY IN THE**
18 **PROGRAM, INCLUDING ANY ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INCOME;**

19 **(3) THAT PRIORITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM SHALL BE**
20 **GIVEN TO A FARMER WHO:**

21 **(i) GRADUATED FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER**
22 **EDUCATION IN THE STATE IN THE LAST 10 YEARS;**

23 **(ii) IS EMPLOYED AS A FARMER ON A FULL-TIME BASIS; AND**

24 **(iii) AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION**
25 **WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, USES SUSTAINABLE**
26 **AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES AND DEMONSTRATES ENVIRONMENTAL**
27 **STEWARDSHIP;**

28 **(4) A LIMIT ON THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY**
29 **THE OFFICE IN REPAYING THE HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN OF A FARMER, BASED ON**
30 **THE FARMER'S TOTAL INCOME AND OUTSTANDING HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN**
31 **BALANCE;**

1 **(5) A PROCEDURE AND SCHEDULE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE**
2 **AMOUNT OF LOAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE TO THE FARMER; AND**

3 **(6) AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE ELIGIBILITY OF EACH FARMER**
4 **PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.**

5 **18-28A-04.**

6 **FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE PROVIDED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS IN THE**
7 **STATE BUDGET.**

8 **18-28A-05.**

9 **AS PART OF THE ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED UNDER § 18-1505 OF THIS**
10 **TITLE, THE OFFICE SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION**
11 **OF THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING:**

12 **(1) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY ALLOCATED FOR THE PROGRAM;**

13 **(2) THE NUMBER OF AWARDS MADE AND AMOUNTS OF THE AWARDS;**
14 **AND**

15 **(3) THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS DENIED AN AWARD.**

16 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**
17 **1, 2018.**

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.