

# SENATE BILL 1028

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9lr1848

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By: **Senators Hershey and Eckardt**

Introduced and read first time: March 1, 2019

Assigned to: Rules

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Rural Health Care Scholarship and Grant Program – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Rural Health Care Scholarship and Grant Program;  
4 establishing the purpose of the Program; requiring the Office of Student Financial  
5 Assistance in the Maryland Higher Education Commission to administer the  
6 Program; authorizing the use of a certain scholarship award for certain purposes;  
7 authorizing the use of a certain grant award for certain purposes; authorizing an  
8 individual to apply to the Office for a certain scholarship or grant; requiring the  
9 Office to set a date by which applications must be received; providing for the  
10 eligibility criteria for the Program; requiring an award recipient to provide certain  
11 health-related services in a rural area of the State for a certain period of time;  
12 providing that, if an award recipient fails to comply with a certain requirement, the  
13 award shall be converted to a certain loan; requiring that a certain loan be prorated  
14 in a certain manner; providing for the administration of certain loans; requiring that  
15 certain loans be repaid to a certain fund; establishing that funds for the Program are  
16 as provided in a certain budget; requiring the Office to adopt certain regulations;  
17 defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Rural Health Care Scholarship  
18 and Grant Program.

19 BY adding to

20 Article – Education

21 Section 18-804

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

25 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

26 **Article – Education**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 18-804.

2 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
3 INDICATED.

4 (2) (I) "HEALTH-RELATED SERVICE" MEANS THE PROVISION OF  
5 ANY TYPE OF HEALTH CARE.

6 (II) "HEALTH-RELATED SERVICE" INCLUDES:

7 1. MEDICAL SERVICES;

8 2. DENTAL SERVICES; AND

9 3. BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

10 (3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE RURAL HEALTH CARE SCHOLARSHIP  
11 AND GRANT PROGRAM.

12 (B) THERE IS A SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT PROGRAM KNOWN AS THE RURAL  
13 HEALTH CARE SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT PROGRAM.

14 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF  
15 PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE BY PROVIDING FINANCIAL  
16 ASSISTANCE TO:

17 (1) UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WHO ARE STUDYING TO PROVIDE  
18 HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE; AND

19 (2) HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS WHO PROVIDE HEALTH-RELATED  
20 SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE.

21 (D) THE OFFICE SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

22 (E) (1) A SCHOLARSHIP AWARD UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE USED AT  
23 ANY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE TO PAY FOR EDUCATION  
24 EXPENSES AS DEFINED BY THE OFFICE, INCLUDING:

25 (I) TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES; AND

26 (II) ROOM AND BOARD.

27 (2) A GRANT AWARD UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE USED TO PAY FOR

1 **EDUCATION EXPENSES, INCLUDING:**

2 **(I) LOAN REPAYMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECIPIENT'S**  
3 **EDUCATION TO PROVIDE HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES; AND**

4 **(II) HEALTH-RELATED CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES.**

5 **(F) (1) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO THE OFFICE FOR A SCHOLARSHIP**  
6 **OR GRANT UNDER THE PROGRAM.**

7 **(2) THE OFFICE SHALL SET A DATE ON OR BEFORE WHICH**  
8 **APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.**

9 **(G) (1) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS FROM THE**  
10 **PROGRAM, AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL:**

11 **(I) BE ENROLLED AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
12 **IN THE STATE;**

13 **(II) DEMONSTRATE THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS IN GOOD**  
14 **STANDING WITH THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION;**

15 **(III) AGREE TO, BEGINNING WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER GRADUATING**  
16 **FROM THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, PROVIDE HEALTH-RELATED**  
17 **SERVICES IN A RURAL AREA OF THE STATE FOR 1 YEAR FOR EACH YEAR THAT THE**  
18 **INDIVIDUAL RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE PROGRAM; AND**

19 **(IV) COMPLETE A SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION IN THE MANNER**  
20 **THE OFFICE REQUIRES.**

21 **(2) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE PROGRAM,**  
22 **AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL:**

23 **(I) DEMONSTRATE THAT THE INDIVIDUAL PROVIDES**  
24 **HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES IN A RURAL AREA OF THE STATE; AND**

25 **(II) AGREE TO PROVIDE HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES IN A**  
26 **RURAL AREA OF THE STATE FOR 1 YEAR FOR EACH YEAR THAT THE INDIVIDUAL**  
27 **RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE PROGRAM.**

28 **(H) (1) FOR EACH YEAR THAT THE RECIPIENT RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP**  
29 **OR GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION, THE RECIPIENT SHALL PROVIDE 1 YEAR OF**  
30 **HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES IN A RURAL AREA OF THE STATE.**

1           **(2) IF A RECIPIENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP OR GRANT AWARD FAILS TO**  
2 **PROVIDE HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES IN A RURAL AREA OF THE STATE AS**  
3 **REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE FUNDS RECEIVED**  
4 **UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL BE CONVERTED FROM A SCHOLARSHIP OR GRANT**  
5 **AWARD TO A LOAN PAYABLE TO THE STATE.**

6           **(3) THE AMOUNT OF THE LOAN THAT THE RECIPIENT MUST REPAY**  
7 **SHALL BE PRORATED TO ACCOUNT FOR THE NUMBER OF YEARS THE RECIPIENT**  
8 **PROVIDED HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES IN A RURAL AREA OF THE STATE AFTER**  
9 **RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP OR GRANT AWARD.**

10           **(4) (I) THE OFFICE SHALL ADMINISTER ANY LOAN CREATED**  
11 **UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.**

12                       **(II) ANY FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE REPAYMENT OF LOANS**  
13 **UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE PAID TO THE NEED-BASED STUDENT FINANCIAL**  
14 **ASSISTANCE FUND UNDER § 18-107 OF THIS TITLE.**

15           **(I) FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL**  
16 **BUDGET OF THE COMMISSION BY THE GOVERNOR.**

17           **(J) THE OFFICE SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.**

18           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
19 1, 2019.