

HOUSE BILL 850

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1lr0523

By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2021

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Maryland Corps Program Fund – COVID–19 Emergency**
3 **Funding Priorities**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring, in certain fiscal years, the Board of Directors of the Maryland
5 Corps Program to give priority to, when providing Program funds, certain Program
6 participants who serve with certain entities that provide certain COVID–19 related
7 services; declaring the intent of the General Assembly; requiring the Governor to
8 report to the General Assembly within a certain period of time under certain
9 circumstances; and generally relating to the Maryland Corps Program Fund.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 24–1108
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Education
17 Section 24–1109
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Education**

23 24–1108.

24 (a) There is a Maryland Corps Program Fund.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (b) The purpose of the Fund is to:
- 2 (1) Provide stipends to corps participants;
- 3 (2) Provide scholarships to corps participants who have completed the
4 Program to be used at institutions of higher education in the State toward vocational
5 certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees;
- 6 (3) Cover expenses incurred by the Board, including expenses incurred
7 during the development, issuance, awarding, and funding of the RFP; and
- 8 (4) Cover expenses incurred by the operator selected under § 24–1105 of
9 this subtitle, as determined by the Board to be relevant to the successful operation of the
10 Program.
- 11 (c) The Board shall administer the Fund.
- 12 (d) The Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of the
13 State Finance and Procurement Article.
- 14 (e) (1) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately and shall invest the
15 money in the Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.
- 16 (2) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.
- 17 (f) The Comptroller shall account for the Fund.
- 18 (g) The Board:
- 19 (1) May accept any gift or grant from any person for the Fund;
- 20 (2) Shall use any gift or grant that it receives for the reasons stated under
21 subsection (b) of this section; and
- 22 (3) Shall deposit any gift or grant that it receives for the Fund with the
23 State Treasurer.
- 24 (h) The Fund consists of:
- 25 (1) Money appropriated under § 24–1109 of this subtitle;
- 26 (2) Gifts or grants received by the Board for the Fund;
- 27 (3) Investment earnings of the Fund; and
- 28 (4) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the
29 Fund.

- 1 (i) The Fund may be used only for:
- 2 (1) Providing stipends to corps participants;
- 3 (2) Providing scholarships to corps participants who have completed the
4 Program to be used at institutions of higher education in the State toward vocational
5 certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees;
- 6 (3) Covering expenses incurred by the Board, including expenses incurred
7 during the development, issuance, awarding, and funding of the RFP; and
- 8 (4) Covering expenses incurred by the operator selected under § 24-1105
9 of this subtitle, as determined by the Board to be relevant to the successful operation of the
10 Program.
- 11 (j) Any unspent portion of the Fund may not be transferred or revert to the
12 General Fund of the State but shall remain in the Fund to be used for the purposes specified
13 in this subtitle.
- 14 (k) (1) Beginning with fiscal year 2018, at the end of the fiscal year, the Board
15 shall prepare an annual report of the Fund that includes an accounting of all financial
16 receipts and expenditures to and from the Fund.
- 17 (2) The Board shall submit a copy of the report to the General Assembly in
18 accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.
- 19 (l) The Fund may be subject to an audit by the Legislative Auditor.
20 24-1109.
- 21 (a) For fiscal year 2018, funds for the Program shall be as provided in the State
22 budget for the Board to develop, issue, and award the RFP described under § 24-1105 of
23 this subtitle.
- 24 (b) For fiscal year 2019, funds for the Program shall be as provided in the State
25 budget for the Board to disburse stipends to corps participants and to cover any
26 administrative or other costs incurred by the Board or operator selected under § 24-1105
27 of this subtitle to operationalize the Program.
- 28 (c) **[For] SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, FOR** fiscal year
29 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter, funds for the Program shall be as provided in the State
30 budget for the Board to:
- 31 (1) Provide stipends to corps participants;

1 (2) Provide scholarships to corps participants who have completed the
2 Program to be used at institutions of higher education in the State toward vocational
3 certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees;

4 (3) Cover expenses incurred by the Board, including expenses incurred
5 during the development, issuance, awarding, and funding of the RFP; and

6 (4) Cover expenses incurred by the operator selected under § 24–1105 of
7 this subtitle, as determined by the Board to be relevant to the successful operation of the
8 Program.

9 **(D) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022 AND 2023, IN PROVIDING STIPENDS AND**
10 **SCHOLARSHIPS TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION,**
11 **THE BOARD SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS WHO SERVE WITH A**
12 **NONPROFIT CORPORATION OR GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT:**

13 **(1) PROVIDES SERVICES DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE RESPONSE TO**
14 **AND RECOVERY FROM THE COVID–19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, INCLUDING:**

15 **(I) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, INCLUDING CONTACT TRACING**
16 **AND SUPPORT FOR ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE ACTIVITIES;**

17 **(II) EMERGENCY LOGISTICS;**

18 **(III) WORK THAT FURTHERS THE CAPACITY OF STATE AND**
19 **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DIRECTOR OF**
20 **THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION;**

21 **(IV) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES AND**
22 **REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES;**

23 **(V) EDUCATION, INCLUDING ENRICHMENT AND ADULT**
24 **EDUCATION AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES;**

25 **(VI) JOBS FOR YOUTH IN PRESERVING AND RESTORING NATURE;**
26 **AND**

27 **(VII) SERVICES TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY; AND**

28 **(2) TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PRACTICABLE:**

29 **(I) SERVES OR RECRUITS CORPS PARTICIPANTS FROM**
30 **UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS, INCLUDING ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED**
31 **INDIVIDUALS, MINORITY INDIVIDUALS, INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH**

1 THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, NATIVE AMERICANS, VETERANS, OR INDIVIDUALS
2 WITH INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES; AND

3 (II) GIVES PRIORITY IN RECRUITING CORPS PARTICIPANTS TO
4 INDIVIDUALS WHO:

5 1. SERVED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES IN THE PEACE
6 CORPS OR ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FEDERAL PROGRAMS:

7 A. THE J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT EDUCATIONAL
8 EXCHANGE PROGRAM;

9 B. THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST PROGRAM;

10 C. THE NATIONAL CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS
11 PROGRAM; OR

12 D. THE AMERICORPS VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO
13 AMERICA (VISTA) PROGRAM; AND

14 2. ENDED THEIR TERMS OF SERVICE EARLY, OR
15 RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES BEFORE THE END OF THEIR TERMS OF SERVICE,
16 DUE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

18 (a) If funding becomes available from the federal government as part of the
19 development of a national contact tracing and COVID-19 public health workforce program,
20 it is the intent of the General Assembly that the funding be deposited in the Maryland
21 Corps Program Fund established under § 24-1108 of the Education Article.

22 (b) Within 30 days after receiving any funding from the federal government as
23 provided in subsection (a) of this section, the Governor shall report to the General
24 Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the Governor's
25 plans to utilize that funding.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
27 1, 2021.