A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Public Schools – School Psychologist Recruitment Program

FOR the purpose of establishing the School Psychologist Recruitment Program within the State Department of Education; providing for the purpose of the Program; requiring the Program, in coordination with the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, to provide professional development programs to certified school psychologists and individuals seeking to become certified school psychologists; authorizing professional development to include certain activities; requiring the Program to maintain a certain clearinghouse and communicate and promote certain opportunities and resources; requiring the Program to reimburse certified school psychologists for attending certain conferences under certain circumstances; requiring a certified school psychologist to submit a certain application to the Program on a certain form to qualify for a certain reimbursement; requiring the Program to approve an applicant under certain circumstances; prohibiting a certain reimbursement from exceeding a certain amount; requiring the Program to select a maximum number of individuals to which the Program shall provide an amount equal to a certain certification fee; requiring a certain individual to reimburse the Program under certain circumstances; authorizing the Program to provide certain aid to an individual for up to a certain number of applications; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the School Psychologist Recruitment Program.

BY adding to

Article – Education
Section 6–124
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

6–124.

(A) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) (i) “Certified school psychologist” means a school psychologist who is certified by the Department to provide psychology services in a primary or secondary school in the State.

(ii) “Certified school psychologist” includes a school psychologist who meets the criteria under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, regardless of whether the school psychologist is licensed by the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to provide psychology services.

(3) “Program” means the School Psychologist Recruitment Program.

(4) “State Board of Examiners of Psychologists” means the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists established under Title 18, Subtitle 2 of the Health Occupations Article.

(B) (1) There is a School Psychologist Recruitment Program within the Department.

(2) The purpose of the Program is to provide professional support to certified school psychologists in the State and individuals seeking to become certified school psychologists in the State.

(C) (1) The Program, in coordination with the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, shall provide professional development programs to individuals who are, or are seeking to become, certified school psychologists.

(2) Professional development may include:

(i) Virtual courses or webinars;

(ii) Mentoring or peer collaboration programs;

(iii) The provision of support materials; and
(IV) Supporting unlicensed certified school psychologists in pursuing a license to practice psychology from the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

(3) In providing professional development to certified school psychologists, the Program shall:

(I) Maintain a clearinghouse of school psychologist best practices to support professional development of certified school psychologists; and

(II) Communicate and promote upcoming opportunities and available resources to certified school psychologists.

(D) (1) The Program shall reimburse certified school psychologists for attending professional conferences in accordance with this subsection.

(2) A certified school psychologist shall submit to the Program an application for reimbursement on a form provided by the Program that includes the submission of:

(I) Materials on the professional conference and an explanation of its relevance to the certified school psychologist's profession; and

(II) Receipts or other documentation of the expenses for which the certified school psychologist requests to be reimbursed.

(3) Subject to funding availability, the Program shall approve an applicant to receive reimbursement under this subsection if:

(I) The application is complete and is received not later than 180 days after the last day of the conference;

(II) The amount requested does not exceed an amount determined by the Department by regulation; and

(III) The applicant is eligible to receive a reimbursement.
(E) (1) Each year, the Program shall select, consistent with the amount provided in the State budget for the Program, a maximum of 1,000 individuals to which the Program shall provide an amount equal to the certification fee charged by the National Association of School Psychologists.

(2) (i) An individual who does not complete all of the requirements for certification by the National Association of School Psychologists shall reimburse the Program the full amount of the aid received under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply to an individual who completes all the requirements for certification by the National Association of School Psychologists but who does not receive certification.

(3) The Program may provide aid to an individual under this subsection for up to two applications for certification by the National Association of School Psychologists.

(F) The Department shall adopt regulations to carry out this section, including:

(1) The maximum amount the Program may reimburse under subsection (d) of this section;

(2) Procedures for an individual to submit an application to the Program; and

(3) Criteria for the selection of recipients of aid under the Program.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021.