

HOUSE BILL 1464

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2lr3103
CF SB 626

By: **Delegate Sample-Hughes**

Introduced and read first time: February 25, 2022

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Health and Government Operations, March 5, 2022

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 11, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician**
3 **Assistants – Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of clarifying that part-time physicians and physician assistants are
5 eligible for participation in the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for
6 Physicians and Physician Assistants; authorizing the Maryland Department of
7 Health to establish prorated loan repayment assistance for part-time physicians and
8 physician assistants; establishing the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment
9 Program Advisory Council to assist the Department in the administration of the
10 Program; and generally relating to the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment
11 Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Health – General
14 Section 24-1703
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Health – General
19 Section 24-1704
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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.



1 BY adding to
2 Article – Health – General
3 Section 24–1708
4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

8 **Article – Health – General**

9 24–1703.

10 There is a Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and
11 Physician Assistants in the State.

12 24–1704.

13 (a) (1) In this section[, “eligible”] **THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**
14 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

15 **(2) (I) “ELIGIBLE field of employment”** means employment by an
16 organization, institution, association, society, or corporation that is exempt from taxation
17 under § 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

18 **[(2)] (II) “Eligible field of employment”** includes employment by the State
19 or any local government in the State.

20 **(3) “PHYSICIAN” INCLUDES A PART–TIME PHYSICIAN.**

21 **(4) “PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT” INCLUDES A PART–TIME PHYSICIAN**
22 **ASSISTANT.**

23 (b) **(1)** The Department shall assist in the repayment with the funds
24 transferred to the Department by the Comptroller under § 14–207(d) of the Health
25 Occupations Article of the amount of education loans owed by a physician or physician
26 assistant who:

27 **[(1)] (i) 1.** Practices primary care in an eligible field of employment
28 in a geographic area of the State that has been federally designated; or

29 **[(ii)] 2.** Is a medical resident specializing in primary care who
30 agrees to practice for at least 2 years as a primary care physician in an eligible field of
31 employment in a geographic area of the State that has been federally designated; and

32 **[(2)] (II)** Meets any other requirements established by the Department.

1 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ESTABLISH PRORATED LOAN REPAYMENT**
2 **ASSISTANCE FOR A PART-TIME PHYSICIAN OR PART-TIME PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**
3 **PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.**

4 (c) Any unspent portions of the money that is transferred to the Department for
5 use under this subtitle from the Board of Physicians Fund may not be transferred to or
6 revert to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the Fund maintained by the
7 Department to administer the Program.

8 **24-1708.**

9 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, "COUNCIL" MEANS THE MARYLAND LOAN**
10 **ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

11 **(B) THERE IS A MARYLAND LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM**
12 **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

13 **(C) THE COUNCIL CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

14 **(1) THE CHAIR OF THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW**
15 **COMMISSION, OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE;**

16 **(2) THE CHAIR OF THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION, OR**
17 **THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE;**

18 **(3) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, OR**
19 **THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

20 **(4) THE DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF**
21 **MEDICINE, OR THE DEAN'S DESIGNEE;**

22 **(5) THE DEAN OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, OR**
23 **THE DEAN'S DESIGNEE;**

24 **(6) THE PRESIDENT OF MEDCHI, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

25 **(7) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRIMARY CARE OFFICE IN THE**
26 **OFFICE OF POPULATION HEALTH IMPROVEMENT;**

27 **(8) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS;**

28 **(9) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ACADEMY OF**
29 **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS; AND**

1 (10) ANY OTHER MEMBERS AS DETERMINED NECESSARY BY THE
2 SECRETARY.

3 (D) (1) THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL SELECT THE CHAIR OF
4 THE COUNCIL.

5 (2) A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL:

6 (I) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE
7 COUNCIL; BUT

8 (II) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER
9 THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE
10 BUDGET.

11 (3) THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST THREE TIMES A YEAR.

12 (E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COUNCIL.

13 (F) THE COUNCIL SHALL:

14 (1) SEEK PERMANENT AND DIVERSE REVENUE SOURCES TO AID IN
15 THE STABILITY AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM;

16 (2) HELP ENSURE MAXIMUM USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS;

17 (3) USE AVAILABLE DATA AND INFORMATION TO HELP DIRECT
18 FUNDING TO PRIORITY AREAS;

19 (4) MONITOR SIMILAR LOAN PROGRAMS IN OTHER STATES AND
20 ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAM REMAINS COMPETITIVE;

21 (5) ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
22 PROGRAM;

23 (6) HELP MARKET AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THE PROGRAM
24 THROUGH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITIES AS AN
25 INCENTIVE TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO PRACTICE IN UNDERSERVED AREAS;
26 AND

27 (7) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE
28 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON ANY NECESSARY CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM.

1 **(G) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE COUNCIL SHALL REPORT**
2 **TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE**
3 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE ACTIVITIES AND**
4 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2022.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.