

SENATE BILL 626

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2lr2555
CF HB 1464

By: **Senators Griffith, Elfreth, Kelley, Guzzone, Lam, Jackson, Washington, Hettleman, King, Benson, Rosapepe, ~~and Pinsky~~ Pinsky, and Hester**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 22, 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 for Physicians and Physician Assistants to assist the
10 Department in the administration of the Program; and generally relating to the
11 Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician
12 Assistants.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Health – General
15 Section 24–1703
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Health – General
20 Section 24–1704
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (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

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

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

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

9 **24-1708.**

10 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, "COUNCIL" MEANS THE MARYLAND LOAN**
11 **ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR PHYSICIANS AND**
12 **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.**

13 **(B) THERE IS A MARYLAND LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM**
14 **ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR PHYSICIANS AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 **(9) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ACADEMY OF**
2 **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS; AND**

3 **(10) ANY OTHER MEMBERS AS DETERMINED NECESSARY BY THE**
4 **SECRETARY.**

5 **(D) (1) THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL SELECT THE CHAIR OF**
6 **THE COUNCIL.**

7 **(2) A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL:**

8 **(I) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE**
9 **COUNCIL; BUT**

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

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

14 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COUNCIL.**

15 **(F) THE COUNCIL SHALL:**

16 **(1) SEEK PERMANENT AND DIVERSE REVENUE SOURCES TO AID IN**
17 **THE STABILITY AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM;**

18 **(2) HELP ENSURE MAXIMUM USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS;**

19 **(3) USE AVAILABLE DATA AND INFORMATION TO HELP DIRECT**
20 **FUNDING TO PRIORITY AREAS;**

21 **(4) MONITOR SIMILAR LOAN PROGRAMS IN OTHER STATES AND**
22 **ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAM REMAINS COMPETITIVE;**

23 **(5) ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE**
24 **PROGRAM;**

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

1 **(7) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE**
2 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON ANY NECESSARY CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM.**

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

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2022.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.