

HB0546/653127/1

BY: Appropriations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 546
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike line 2 in its entirety; in line 3, strike the parentheses; in line 8, after “wage” insert “and provide health insurance benefits to a Program participant; authorizing a participating employer to provide wraparound services to a Program participant”; in line 9, after “amount” insert “and a higher education award of a certain amount”; in line 18, after “report,” insert “repealing the provisions of law relating to the Maryland Corps Program; altering the use of certain funding appropriated to the Dedicated Purpose Account in the fiscal year 2023 budget bill from the Maryland Corps Program to the Service Year Option Program;”; and in line 19, after “Program” insert “and the repeal of the Maryland Corps Program”.

On page 2, after line 20, insert:

“BY repealing

Article – State Government

Section 9–2811 through 9–2820 and the part “Part II. Maryland Corps Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

(As enacted by Chapter 1 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Chapter 484 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2022

Supplemental Budget No. 5, Item 14(16)”.

On page 8, in line 23, strike “July” and substitute “June”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

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On page 3, strike beginning with “A” in line 2 down through “LEVEL” in line 3; in line 4, after “PROGRAM” insert “:

(I) A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, GED, OR COMPARABLE PROOF OF EDUCATIONAL LEVEL; OR

(II) A MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION”;

after line 10, insert:

“(I) “WRAPAROUND SERVICES” INCLUDES:

(1) CHILD CARE;

(2) TRANSPORTATION;

(3) HOUSING;

(4) MENTAL HEALTH;

(5) CRISIS INTERVENTION;

(6) SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION OR TREATMENT;

(7) LEGAL AID;

(8) FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMMING;

(9) JOB SEARCH AND APPLICATION SUPPORT; AND

(10) COLLEGE APPLICATION SUPPORT.;

in line 22, strike “AND”; and in line 24, after “NEEDS” insert “;

(5) EQUIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WITH THE SKILLS THAT WILL ENABLE THEM TO SUCCESSFULLY MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR TO THE WORKFORCE; AND

(6) PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE PROGRAM TO BE USED AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TOWARD VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATES, ASSOCIATE’S DEGREES, OR BACHELOR’S DEGREES.

On page 5, in line 4, strike “AND”; in line 5, after “HEALTH” insert “;AND

(4) POSITIONS IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FACING PERSISTENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION CHALLENGES;

in line 9, after “WEEK” insert “, UNLESS OTHERWISE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT”; in line 16, strike “PAY” and substitute “;

(I) PAY;

in line 17, after “HOUR” insert “;AND

(II) PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS TO A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT.

(Over)

(3) A PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER MAY PROVIDE WRAPAROUND SERVICES TO A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT”;

in line 19, strike “A STIPEND OF UP TO \$3,000”; and in line 20, after “PLACEMENT” insert “:

(1) A STIPEND OF UP TO \$6,000; AND

(2) AN EDUCATION AWARD OF \$6,000, WHICH SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO A TAX-EXEMPT MARYLAND 529 ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 18, SUBTITLE 19 OF THIS ARTICLE AND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR QUALIFIED HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENSES, AS DEFINED IN § 18-1901 OF THIS ARTICLE”.

On page 6, in line 10, strike “AND” and substitute:

“(2) PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE PROGRAM TO BE USED AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE TOWARD VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATES, ASSOCIATE’S DEGREES, AND BACHELOR’S DEGREES; AND”;

and in line 11, strike “(2)” and substitute “(3)”.

On page 7, after line 7, insert:

“(3) FEDERAL FUNDS;”;

and in lines 8 and 9, strike “(3)” and “(4)”, respectively, and substitute “(4)” and “(5)”, respectively.

On page 8, after line 22, insert:

“Article – State Government

[Part II. Maryland Corps Program.]

[9–2811.

- (a) In this part the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) “Board” means the Board of Directors of the Program.
- (c) “Corps participant” means an individual who participates in the Program.
- (d) “Fund” means the Maryland Corps Program Fund.
- (e) “Participating organization” means a nonprofit organization or government agency that:
 - (1) has a focus on community or other service, service learning, volunteerism, or other activities or experiences with a similar mission;
 - (2) hosts a program participant in a service role; and
 - (3) complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and Title 20, Subtitle 6 of this article.
- (f) “Program” means the Maryland Corps Program.
- (g) “Wraparound services” includes:
 - (1) child care;

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- (2) transportation;
- (3) housing;
- (4) mental health;
- (5) crisis intervention;
- (6) substance abuse prevention or treatment;
- (7) legal aid;
- (8) financial literacy programming;
- (9) job search and application support; and
- (10) college application support.]

[9-2812.

(a) There is a Maryland Corps Program in the State administered and managed by the Board.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Program is exempt from Division II of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(2) The Program is subject to Title 14, Subtitle 3 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(c) The purpose of the Program is to:

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(1) provide meaningful service opportunities to participants that will address the social needs of the community;

(2) equip corps participants with the skills that will enable them to successfully make the transition from high school to an institution of higher education or to the workforce; and

(3) provide scholarships to corps participants who have completed the Program to be used at institutions of higher education toward vocational certificates, associate's degrees, or bachelor's degrees.

(d) The Program is subject to review under § 2-1220 of this article.]

[9-2813.

(a) (1) A Board of Directors shall administer and manage the Program.

(2) The Board is a body politic and corporate and is an instrumentality of the State.

(b) The Board consists of the following members:

(1) a Board Chair, jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House;

(2) two members jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House:

(i) one of whom must represent a service organization in the State; and

(ii) one of whom shall be:

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1. a current participant in a public service program; or
2. a former participant in a public service program whose participation ended during the preceding 3 years;

(3) one member appointed by the President of the Senate;

(4) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

(5) two members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a representative from the Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism.

(c) In making appointments to the Board, the President, Speaker, and Governor shall consider:

(1) the professional or personal experience of the individual in community or other service, nonprofit management, civic engagement, or volunteerism; and

(2) the cultural, geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the State.

(d) A member of the Board:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Board; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(e) (1) The term of a member of the Board is 4 years.

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(2) The terms of the members are staggered as required by the terms provided for members on June 1, 2022.

(3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(f) (1) A member appointed by the President may be removed by the President for the reasons stated in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(2) A member appointed by the Speaker may be removed by the Speaker for the reasons stated in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(3) A member appointed by the Governor may be removed by the Governor for the reasons stated in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(4) The Board Chair may be removed jointly by the President and the Speaker for the reasons stated in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(5) A member of the Board may be removed for:

(i) incompetence;

(ii) misconduct;

(iii) immorality; or

(iv) failure to perform the duties of the position.

(g) Board members are subject to the requirements of Title 5 of the General Provisions Article.

(h) (1) The Board shall meet at least once every 2 months.

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(2) Board meetings are subject to the requirements of Title 3 of the General Provisions Article.]

[9-2814.

(a) (1) The Board shall appoint an Executive Director.

(2) The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board.

(3) The Board shall determine the salary of the Executive Director.

(b) (1) The Executive Director is the chief administrative officer of the Program.

(2) The Executive Director shall manage the administrative affairs and technical activities of the Program in accordance with the policies and procedures that the Board establishes.

(c) (1) The Board may employ a staff in accordance with its budget.

(2) Staff employed under this section are State employees who:

(i) are subject to the requirements of Title 5 of the General Provisions Article; and

(ii) may participate in the State Retirement and Pension System under Division II of the State Personnel and Pensions Article.]

[9-2815.

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(a) The Board is responsible for expanding service opportunities in the State with the following goals:

(1) creating a strong annual cohort bond of unity for Program participants from urban, rural, and suburban areas of the State;

(2) subject to subsection (d) of this section, ensuring all Marylanders have equitable access to participate in the Program regardless of gender, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, geography, or protected veteran status;

(3) helping Program participants develop the critical job skills necessary for creating a more equitable society as they serve their communities across the State, using the lens of environmental, social, racial, and economic justice; and

(4) ensuring each district of the State can communicate its unique community needs and choose the appropriate solutions.

(b) The Board shall adopt regulations regarding:

(1) selection criteria for regional operating partners with a global view of the needs of the communities in which the regional operating partner works, who will identify and implement placement priorities in consultation with local community partners to expand capacity and create new service programs as needed;

(2) eligibility requirements for participating organizations, classified by the Board based on the number of service members the organization's grant will support, as:

(i) community employers; or

(ii) large-scale employers;

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(3) prioritizing the placement of Program participants with large-scale employers based on the organization's demonstrated need for Program participants who will transition to full-time employment following completion of the Program;

(4) a centralized process to facilitate efficient screening and placement of Program participants as well as effective measurement and evaluation of the participant's service experience;

(5) stipends for participants, including:

(i) monetary payment of at least \$15 per hour, health insurance benefits, and the potential for wraparound services; and

(ii) requirements for large-scale employers to provide matching funds;

(6) an education award of \$6,000 for participants that complete at least 9 months of service, which shall be deposited into a tax-exempt Maryland 529 account established under Title 18, Subtitle 19 of the Education Article and may only be used for qualified higher education expenses, as defined in § 18-1901 of the Education Article;

(7) workforce development training and wraparound services provided to Program participants by participating organizations;

(8) additional training and support services provided to Program participants after the completion of the participant's service;

(9) ongoing evaluation of opportunities to expand service in the State to address the State's workforce development needs, including opportunities within State agencies for the creation and expansion of service opportunities within the agencies; and

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(10) ongoing evaluation of the Program to ensure access and effectiveness, including:

(i) demographics of corps participants, including race, ethnicity, age, education, and geography;

(ii) post-Program trajectories of corps participants; and

(iii) an evaluation of the needs served in the community by the Program.

(c) The Board may:

(1) sue and be sued;

(2) adopt a seal;

(3) acquire, hold, and dispose of property for its corporate purposes;

(4) sell, lease, or otherwise convey, in any manner that the Board considers appropriate, any property it owns to accomplish the purposes of this subtitle;

(5) enter into contracts and leases and execute any instrument necessary or convenient, on the terms and for any corporate purpose that the Board considers advisable;

(6) use any other money available under this subtitle or any grant or money from the State or federal government or any of their units or instrumentalities to accomplish the purposes of this subtitle;

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(7) borrow money for a corporate purpose and mortgage or otherwise encumber its property as security for the loan;

(8) accept gifts, contributions, or loans of money, supplies, goods, and services, and accept appropriations, allotments, and loans of money from the State or federal government, a federal corporation, a unit or instrumentality of the federal government, or a political subdivision or instrumentality of the State;

(9) exercise a power usually possessed by a private corporation in performing similar functions unless to do so would conflict with State law; and

(10) do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers expressly granted by this subtitle.

(d) The Board shall prioritize for participation in the Program individuals historically underrepresented in:

(1) higher education enrollment or completion; or

(2) employment by:

(i) large-scale and community employers; or

(ii) participating organizations.]

[9-2816.

(a) The Board shall act as an intermediary with the AmeriCorps Program to secure federal funding and alleviate the administrative burden on State organizations seeking to participate in AmeriCorps programming.

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(b) In working with the AmeriCorps Program under subsection (a) of this section, the Board shall focus on expanding the service opportunities in State and local parks and in the public health sector.]

[9-2817.

(a) There is a Maryland Corps Program Fund.

(b) The purpose of the Fund is to:

(1) provide stipends to corps participants;

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

(3) cover expenses incurred by the Board, including expenses incurred to study the potential use of the Program as a workforce development tool in the State;

(4) cover expenses incurred to study how alumni of the Program could be better positioned to meet the current and future needs of employers in the State; and

(5) provide funding for the Program to match gifts or grants received by the Board for the Fund.

(c) The Board shall administer the Fund.

(d) The Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(e) (1) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately and shall invest the money in the Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.

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(2) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

(f) The Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

(g) The Board:

(1) may accept any gift or grant from any person for the Fund;

(2) shall use any gift or grant that it receives for the reasons stated under subsection (b) of this section; and

(3) shall deposit any gift or grant that it receives for the Fund with the State Treasurer.

(h) The Fund consists of:

(1) money appropriated under § 9-2818 of this subtitle;

(2) gifts or grants received by the Board for the Fund;

(3) investment earnings of the Fund; and

(4) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund.

(i) The Fund may be used only for:

(1) providing stipends to corps participants;

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

(3) covering expenses incurred by the Board, including expenses incurred to study the potential use of the Program as a workforce development tool in the State;

(4) covering expenses incurred to study how alumni of the Program could be better positioned to meet the current and future needs of employers in the State; and

(5) providing funding for the Program to match gifts or grants received by the Board for the Fund.

(j) Any unspent portion of the Fund may not be transferred or revert to the General Fund of the State but shall remain in the Fund to be used for the purposes specified in this subtitle.

(k) (1) Beginning with fiscal year 2018, at the end of the fiscal year, the Board shall prepare an annual report of the Fund that includes an accounting of all financial receipts and expenditures to and from the Fund.

(2) The Board shall submit a copy of the report to the General Assembly in accordance with § 2-1257 of this article.

(l) The Fund may be subject to an audit by the Legislative Auditor.]

[9-2818.

(a) The Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation to the Fund of:

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- (1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;
- (2) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
- (3) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2026; and
- (4) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) appropriations made under subsection (a) of this section are in addition to any federal funding received for State service or volunteer programming; and

(2) any federal funding received by the State for service or volunteer programming shall be deposited into the Fund for use by the Program.

(c) Appropriations made under subsection (a) of this section and other funding received by the Board shall be used to:

(1) provide stipends to corps participants;

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

(3) cover expenses incurred by the Board, including expenses incurred in marketing and recruitment; and

(4) cover programmatic expenses to expand service opportunities throughout the State, including:

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(i) in partnership with regional operating partners, creating and maintaining an online platform through which individuals and corps participants can search and apply for service opportunities throughout the State;

(ii) expanding the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program, as provided under §§ 8–1913 through 8–1924 of the Natural Resources Article;

(iii) creating a Maryland Civilian Climate Corps to conserve and restore State and local parks and engage in other climate or environmental projects;

(iv) creating a Maryland Historic Trades Corps to place young adults and young veterans in regionally based work crews tasked with rehabilitation of State historic resources;

(v) expanding the Maryland Conservation Corps to engage in projects that manage natural resources and conserve parks; and

(vi) providing staff for the Program.

(d) Marketing and recruitment conducted by the Program under subsection (c)(3) of this section shall prioritize:

(1) historically black colleges and universities, as defined in § 3–207 of the State Finance and Procurement Article;

(2) community colleges;

(3) high schools with low rates of matriculation to 2– and 4–year institutions of higher education;

(4) trade schools; and

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- (5) youth who are disconnected from school or work.]

[9-2819.

The Board shall explore the possibility of:

- (1) accessing federal or other grant funding for the Program; and
(2) awarding corps participants with academic credit for their service.]

[9-2820.

On or before December 1 each year, the Board shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of this article, the General Assembly regarding:

- (1) the number and amount of stipends awarded under the Program;
(2) the nonprofit or government agencies with which corps participants are placed;
(3) the institutions, if any, that award academic credit for a corps participant's service;
(4) the number and amount of scholarships awarded under the Program; and
(5) at which institutions corps participants use their scholarships.]

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14. Y01A02.01 Dedicated Purpose Account

In addition to the appropriation shown on page 135 of the printed bill (first reading file bill), to provide funding to support legislative operating budget priorities. Following Legislative Policy Committee review, the Department of Budget and Management shall process a budget amendment effective July 1, 2022 transferring most of the funds listed below to the appropriate budgeted programs.

(16) D15A05.05 Expand [Maryland Corps] SERVICE YEAR OPTION
Program5,000,000”.