

# HOUSE BILL 488

F1, J1

3lr1569  
CF 3lr2702

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By: **Delegates Vogel, Boaf, Charkoudian, Cullison, Edelson, Embry, Fair, Foley, Grossman, Guyton, Guzzone, Henson, D. Jones, Kaufman, Kelly, Lehman, Lopez, McCaskill, Miller, Mireku–North, Qi, Reilly, Reznik, Ruth, Shetty, Simpson, Smith, Taveras, Terrasa, Watson, Wu, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2023

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Mental Health**  
3 **Professionals in Public Schools**

4 FOR the purpose of expanding the purpose of the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance  
5 Repayment Program to include assisting in the repayment of certain loans for certain  
6 mental health professionals employed by public schools in the State; requiring the  
7 Office of Student Financial Assistance to publicize the Program to eligible mental  
8 health professionals for a certain purpose; and generally relating to loan repayment  
9 assistance for mental health professionals in public schools.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Education  
12 Section 18–1501, 18–1502, and 18–1506  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2022 Replacement Volume)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 18–1501.

19 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

20 (b) (1) “Eligible field of employment” means employment in the State by an  
21 organization, institution, association, society, or corporation that is exempt from taxation  
22 under § 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) “Eligible field of employment” includes employment by the State or any  
2 local government in the State, but does not include being employed as a judicial clerk in  
3 any court.

4 (c) “Higher education loan” means any loan for undergraduate or graduate study  
5 that is obtained for tuition, educational expenses, or living expenses from:

6 (1) A college or university, government, or commercial source; or

7 (2) An organization, institution, association, society, or corporation that is  
8 exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

9 **(D) “MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED**  
10 **IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES,**  
11 **INCLUDING AS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST, RESOURCE PSYCHOLOGIST,**  
12 **PSYCHOLOGIST COORDINATOR, SOCIAL WORKER, SOCIAL WORKER SUPERVISOR, OR**  
13 **MENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR.**

14 **[(d)] (E)** “Program” means the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment  
15 Program.

16 18–1502.

17 (a) There is a program of loan assistance repayment known as the Janet L.  
18 Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program in the State.

19 (b) The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall assist in the repayment of  
20 the amount of any higher education loan owed by an individual who:

21 (1) (i) Receives a graduate, professional, or undergraduate degree from:

22 1. A college or university in the State of Maryland; [or]

23 2. A school of law; or

24 **3. FOR A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, ANY**  
25 **ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY; OR**

26 (ii) Receives a Resident Teacher Certificate (RTC) from the  
27 Department after completing an alternative teaching preparation program approved by the  
28 State Superintendent;

29 (2) Obtains eligible employment;

30 (3) Receives an income that is less than the maximum eligible total income

1 levels established by the Office, including any additional sources of income; and

2 (4) Satisfies any other criteria established by the Office.

3 (c) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the Office shall assist  
4 in the repayment of the amount of any higher education loan owed by [a public]:

5 (1) A PUBLIC school teacher in the State who:

6 [(1)] (I) Has taught in Maryland for at least 2 years:

7 [(i)] 1. In science, technology, engineering, fine arts, or math  
8 subjects;

9 [(ii)] 2. In a school in which at least the following percentages of  
10 the students are enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program in the State:

11 [1.] A. 75% through June 30, 2025; and

12 [2.] B. 55% beginning July 1, 2025; or

13 [(iii)] 3. In a school that:

14 [1.] A. Had Title I status during the 2018–2019 school  
15 year;

16 [2.] B. Lost Title I status after the 2018–2019 school year;  
17 and

18 [3.] C. Participates in the United States Department of  
19 Agriculture Community Eligibility Provision; and

20 [(2)] (II) Has received the highest performance evaluation rating for the  
21 most recent year available in the county in which the teacher taught; OR

22 (2) A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WHO HAS BEEN EMPLOYED IN  
23 A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR.

24 (d) (1) A grant awarded under subsection (c) of this section shall be known as  
25 the Nancy Grasmick Teacher Award.

26 (2) A recipient of a Nancy Grasmick Teacher Award shall be known as a  
27 Nancy Grasmick Teacher Scholar.

28 (e) An applicant for assistance in the repayment of a commercial loan shall  
29 demonstrate to the Office that the commercial loan was used for tuition, educational

1 expenses, or living expenses for graduate or undergraduate study.

2 (f) Assistance in the repayment of a loan from an entity set forth in §  
3 18–1501(c)(2) of this subtitle shall require the approval of the Office.

4 (g) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the Office shall assist  
5 in the repayment of the amount of any higher education loan owed by a licensed clinical  
6 alcohol and drug counselor, a licensed clinical marriage and family therapy counselor, or a  
7 licensed clinical professional counselor whose practice is located in a high–need geographic  
8 area of the State as determined by the Maryland Department of Health.

9 18–1506.

10 The Office shall publicize the availability of the Program, including by publicizing  
11 the Program:

12 (1) At historically black colleges and universities; [and]

13 (2) In a manner that focuses on students who are historically  
14 underrepresented in the teaching field; AND

15 **(3) TO ELIGIBLE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN AN EFFORT TO**  
16 **RECRUIT AND RETAIN MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN**  
17 **THE STATE.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
19 1, 2023.