

HOUSE BILL 393

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4r1879
CF SB 334

By: **Delegate Bagnall**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations and Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Maryland Dent–Care Program – Eligibility**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding eligibility for the Maryland Dent–Care Program to include
4 part–time dentists and dental hygienists who are practicing under a general or
5 limited license; authorizing the Office of Student Financial Assistance within the
6 Maryland Higher Education Commission, in collaboration with the Maryland
7 Department of Health, to establish prorated loan repayment assistance for part–time
8 dentists and dental hygienists; and generally relating to eligibility for the Maryland
9 Dent–Care Program.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 18–2404 and 18–2406
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Education
17 Section 18–2405(c)(3)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Education**

23 18–2404.

24 Each applicant for a Higher Education Loan Assistance Grant under this subtitle
25 shall:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) Be licensed to practice in Maryland by the State Board of Dental
2 Examiners **UNDER A:**

3 (I) **GENERAL LICENSE; OR**

4 (II) **LIMITED LICENSE;**

5 (2) Demonstrate financial need;

6 (3) Be employed full time **OR PART TIME** as a dentist or dental hygienist;

7 (4) Agree that at least 30% of the patients treated by the dentist or in the
8 practice in which the dental hygienist works each year for a 3-year period in a private
9 practice or clinical setting will be Maryland Medical Assistance Program recipients; and

10 (5) Meet any other criteria established by the Office.

11 18-2405.

12 (c) (3) **THE OFFICE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MARYLAND**
13 **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, MAY ESTABLISH PRORATED LOAN REPAYMENT**
14 **ASSISTANCE FOR A PART-TIME DENTIST OR PART-TIME DENTAL HYGIENIST**
15 **PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.**

16 18-2406.

17 Each recipient of a Higher Education Loan Assistance Grant under this subtitle may
18 hold the grant for up to 3 years if the recipient:

19 (1) Continues to be employed full time **OR PART TIME** as a dentist or
20 dental hygienist; and

21 (2) Continues to treat Maryland Medical Assistance Program recipients as
22 at least 30% of all patients treated:

23 (i) By the dentist in a private practice or clinical setting authorized
24 under the Program; or

25 (ii) In the private practice or clinical setting in which the dental
26 hygienist works.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
28 1, 2024.