

HOUSE BILL 1401

F1
HB 961/23 – W&M

4lr1640
CF SB 499

By: **Delegates Reilly, Arikan, Buckel, Chisholm, Crosby, Griffith, Hartman, Hinebaugh, Hornberger, Howard, Jacobs, A. Johnson, S. Johnson, McComas, Miller, M. Morgan, Nawrocki, Pippy, Rose, Stonko, Szeliga, and Tomlinson**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Department of Education – School Psychologist Recruitment Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the School Psychologist Recruitment Program within the
4 State Department of Education; requiring the Program to provide professional
5 development programs and aid for a certain certification fee to school psychologists
6 and individuals seeking to become school psychologists and to reimburse school
7 psychologists for professional conference expenses; and generally relating to the
8 School Psychologist Recruitment Program.

9 BY adding to
10 Article – Education
11 Section 6–129
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Education**

17 **6–129.**

18 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
19 **INDICATED.**

20 **(2) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST RECRUITMENT**
21 **PROGRAM.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(3) "SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS**
2 **CERTIFIED TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN A PUBLIC**
3 **SCHOOL OR A STATE-APPROVED NONPUBLIC SCHOOL SETTING IN THE STATE.**

4 **(B) (1) THERE IS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST RECRUITMENT PROGRAM**
5 **WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.**

6 **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL**
7 **SUPPORT TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS IN THE STATE AND INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO**
8 **BECOME SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS IN THE STATE.**

9 **(C) (1) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
10 **PROGRAMS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE, OR ARE SEEKING TO BECOME, SCHOOL**
11 **PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

12 **(2) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MAY INCLUDE:**

13 **(I) VIRTUAL COURSES OR WEBINARS;**

14 **(II) MENTORING OR PEER COLLABORATION PROGRAMS; AND**

15 **(III) THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT MATERIALS.**

16 **(3) IN PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO SCHOOL**
17 **PSYCHOLOGISTS, THE PROGRAM SHALL:**

18 **(I) MAINTAIN A CLEARINGHOUSE OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST**
19 **BEST PRACTICES TO SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL**
20 **PSYCHOLOGISTS;**

21 **(II) COMMUNICATE AND PROMOTE UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES**
22 **AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS; AND**

23 **(III) SEEK TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS**
24 **FROM GROUPS HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED AMONG PROFESSIONAL**
25 **PERSONNEL IN THE STATE.**

26 **(D) (1) THE PROGRAM SHALL REIMBURSE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR**
27 **ATTENDING PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS**
28 **SUBSECTION.**

29 **(2) A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST SHALL SUBMIT TO THE PROGRAM AN**
30 **APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT ON A FORM PROVIDED BY THE PROGRAM THAT**

1 INCLUDES THE SUBMISSION OF:

2 (I) MATERIALS ON THE PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND AN
3 EXPLANATION OF ITS RELEVANCE TO THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST'S PROFESSION;
4 AND

5 (II) RECEIPTS OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION OF THE EXPENSES
6 FOR WHICH THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST REQUESTS TO BE REIMBURSED.

7 (3) SUBJECT TO FUNDING AVAILABILITY, THE PROGRAM SHALL
8 APPROVE AN APPLICANT TO RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION
9 IF:

10 (I) THE APPLICATION IS COMPLETE AND IS RECEIVED NOT
11 LATER THAN 180 DAYS AFTER THE LAST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE;

12 (II) THE AMOUNT REQUESTED DOES NOT EXCEED AN AMOUNT
13 DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT BY REGULATION; AND

14 (III) THE APPLICANT IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A
15 REIMBURSEMENT.

16 (E) (1) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,
17 EACH YEAR, THE PROGRAM SHALL SELECT, CONSISTENT WITH THE AMOUNT
18 PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE PROGRAM, A MAXIMUM OF 100
19 INDIVIDUALS FOR WHOM THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE FUNDS TO PAY THE
20 CERTIFICATION FEE CHARGED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL
21 PSYCHOLOGISTS.

22 (II) IN SELECTING INDIVIDUALS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH, THE
23 PROGRAM SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS FROM GROUPS
24 HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED AMONG PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL IN THE
25 STATE.

26 (2) (I) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DOES NOT COMPLETE ALL THE
27 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL
28 PSYCHOLOGISTS SHALL REIMBURSE THE PROGRAM THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE AID
29 RECEIVED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

30 (II) THE PROVISIONS OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS
31 PARAGRAPH DO NOT APPLY TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO COMPLETES ALL THE
32 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL
33 PSYCHOLOGISTS BUT WHO DOES NOT RECEIVE CERTIFICATION.

1 **(3) THE PROGRAM MAY PROVIDE AID TO AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER THIS**
2 **SUBSECTION FOR UP TO TWO APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL**
3 **ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

4 **(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**
5 **SECTION, INCLUDING:**

6 **(1) THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT THE PROGRAM MAY REIMBURSE UNDER**
7 **SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION;**

8 **(2) PROCEDURES FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION**
9 **TO THE PROGRAM; AND**

10 **(3) CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS OF AID UNDER**
11 **THE PROGRAM.**

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
13 1, 2024.