

Chapter 356

(House Bill 265)

AN ACT concerning

**Dental Services – Qualification for Maryland Dent–Care Program ~~and Study on~~
~~Use of Dental Online Credentialing~~**

FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility criteria for Higher Education Loan Assistance Grants under the Maryland Dent–Care Program; ~~requiring the Maryland Insurance Administration to submit a report to certain committees of the General Assembly on the use of online credentialing systems by dental insurance carriers;~~ and generally relating to dental services.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Education
Section 18–101(a) and (c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 18–2404, 18–2405, and 18–2406
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

18–101.

- (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (c) “Office” means the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

18–2404.

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

- (1) Be licensed to practice in Maryland by the State Board of Dental Examiners;
- (2) Demonstrate financial need;

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

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

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

18-2405.

(a) The Office, on notification by the Maryland Department of Health, may award Higher Education Loan Assistance Grants.

(b) The Office, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health, shall adopt regulations to determine:

(1) The maximum number of participants in the Program each year;

(2) The maximum number of total participants in the Program; and

(3) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, the minimum and maximum amount of a Higher Education Loan Assistance Grant awarded under this subtitle.

(c) (1) On or after October 1, 2023, the amount of a Higher Education Loan Assistance Grant awarded under subsection (a) of this section:

(i) Shall be at least \$50,000 per year for 3 years for a dentist; and

(ii) May not exceed \$10,000 per year for 2 years for a dental hygienist.

(2) The Office, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health, shall periodically evaluate the minimum and maximum grant amounts determined under subsection (b)(3) of this section.

(3) THE OFFICE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SHALL ESTABLISH PRORATED HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN ASSISTANCE GRANT AMOUNTS FOR PART-TIME DENTISTS AND PART-TIME DENTAL HYGIENISTS.

18-2406.

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

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

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

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

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

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1, 2025, the Maryland Insurance Administration shall:~~

~~(1) study whether dental insurance carriers are using an online credentialing system, as defined in § 15-112 of the Insurance Article, to process uniform credentialing forms; and~~

~~(2) report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, including any recommendations to expand utilization of an online credentialing system to process uniform credentialing forms among dental insurance carriers.~~

SECTION ~~2.~~ 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.