

SENATE BILL 248

P1

(PRE-FILED)

5lr0073
CF HB 33

By: **Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Departmental – Service and Civic Innovation)**

Requested: October 7, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Service and Civic Innovation – Maryland Corps Program Service**
3 **Year Option Pathways – Revisions**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the duties of the Department of Service and Civic Innovation;
5 renaming the Governor’s Volunteer Council to be the Governor’s Commission on
6 Service and Volunteerism; altering certain requirements relating to qualifications
7 for applicants and compensation for participants in the Young Adult Service Year
8 Option Pathway and the Maryland Service Year Option Pathway; altering certain
9 reporting requirements; repealing the Executive Fellows Program; and generally
10 relating to the Maryland Corps Program Service Year Option Pathways.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – State Government
13 Section 21–106(b)(5) and (8), 21–204(d)(6) and (7), 21–205, 21–206, 21–209, 21–301,
14 and 21–302
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
18 Article – State Government
19 Section 21–201(a) and (h)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

22 BY repealing
23 Article – State Government
24 Section 21–306
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – State Government**

4 21–106.

5 (b) The Department shall:

6 (5) administer:

7 (i) the Maryland Corps Program under Subtitle 2 of this title; AND

8 [(ii) the Executive Fellows Program under § 21–306 of this title; and]

9 [(iii)] (II) any other volunteer program recommended or designated
10 by the governor or otherwise established by law;

11 (8) provide staff support for the [Governor’s Volunteer Council]
12 GOVERNOR’S COMMISSION ON SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM.

13 21–201.

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

15 (h) “Program” means the Maryland Corps Program.

16 21–204.

17 (d) The Department shall adopt regulations regarding:

18 (6) stipends for corps participants, including:

19 (i) monetary payment of at least [\$15 per hour or] the APPLICABLE
20 COUNTY OR State minimum wage, whichever is greater;

21 (ii) health insurance benefits and the potential for wraparound
22 services; and

23 (iii) requirements for large–scale employers to provide matching
24 funds;

25 (7) a Program completion award of \$6,000 for participants that complete at
26 least 9 months of service that [may] SHALL be awarded as [follows:

1 (i) by deposit into a tax-exempt Maryland 529 account established
2 under Title 18, Subtitle 19 of the Education Article and may only be used for qualified
3 higher education expenses, as defined in § 18-1901 of the Education Article; or

4 (ii) payment of] a cash stipend;

5 21-205.

6 (a) (1) There is a Young Adult Service Year Option Pathway in the Program.

7 (2) The purpose of the Young Adult Service Year Option Pathway is to:

8 (i) provide service placements to eligible young adults as an
9 additional option to immediately pursuing postsecondary education or career and technical
10 training;

11 (ii) equip corps participants with professional development,
12 mentoring, job training, financial literacy skills, and other supports while working in
13 high-impact service placements;

14 (iii) assist in addressing the State's greatest challenges by
15 channeling the next generation of Maryland citizens into impactful public service; and

16 (iv) strengthen a pipeline of talent into State and local governments
17 to fill present and future staffing needs.

18 (b) An individual may apply to the Department for a service placement in the YA
19 Pathway under this section if the individual [is]:

20 (1) **IS** a Maryland resident on the submission of application; [and]

21 (2) **[within 3 years of graduation] HAS GRADUATED** from high school or
22 **[having] HAS** obtained a similar level of education completion, including an individual who
23 has obtained a:

24 (i) **[Maryland] high school diploma;**

25 (ii) **[Maryland] high school diploma by examination; or**

26 (iii) **[Maryland High School Certificate of Program Completion]**
27 **HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION; AND**

28 **(3) IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD AND UNDER THE AGE OF 25 YEARS AT**
29 **THE START DATE OF THE YA PATHWAY.**

1 (c) (1) The Department shall set targets for participation in the YA Pathway
2 under this section, including:

3 (i) 200 corps participants in the first year of implementation; and

4 (ii) 2,000 corps participants in the fourth year of implementation.

5 (2) The Department shall prioritize for participation in the YA Pathway
6 under this section:

7 (i) individuals historically underrepresented in:

8 1. higher education enrollment or completion; or

9 2. employment:

10 A. by large-scale and community employers;

11 B. by participating organizations; or

12 C. in professions and occupations that require licensure or
13 certification; and

14 (ii) organizations that provide wraparound services to corps
15 participants.

16 (d) The Department shall develop focus areas for the YA Pathway under this
17 section for the purpose of addressing priority State and community issues, including:

18 (1) climate;

19 (2) education; and

20 (3) health.

21 (e) A corps participant who receives a service placement in the YA Pathway under
22 this section shall:

23 (1) participate in all training related to the service placement;

24 (2) work at least 30 hours per week;

25 (3) be partnered with an on-site mentor;

26 (4) perform the duties of the service placement to the satisfaction of the
27 participating organization and the Department;

1 (5) participate in Program-wide events;

2 (6) be paid [\$15 per hour or] **AT LEAST** the **APPLICABLE COUNTY OR**
3 State minimum wage, whichever is greater, for mandatory work hours or mandatory
4 Program activities; and

5 (7) on completion of the Program, be notified of all available post-Program
6 opportunities, including registered apprenticeships.

7 (f) The Department shall promote and publicize the availability of opportunities
8 in the YA Pathway to:

9 (1) high schools and adult high schools in the State;

10 (2) community and nonprofit organizations;

11 (3) faith-based institutions; and

12 (4) employers that are potential service placement providers.

13 (g) (1) There is a Young Adult Service Year Option Pathway Fund.

14 (2) The purpose of the YA Pathway Fund is to:

15 (i) provide stipends to corps participants with a service placement
16 in the [YA Pathway] **PROGRAM** under this section;

17 (ii) pay the costs to administer and promote [the YA Pathway under]
18 the Program; and

19 (iii) assist in the creation of additional corps programs under §
20 21-207 of this subtitle.

21 (3) The Department shall administer the YA Pathway Fund.

22 (4) Except as provided in paragraph (9) of this subsection, the YA Pathway
23 Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of the State Finance
24 and Procurement Article.

25 (5) (i) The State Treasurer shall hold the YA Pathway Fund separately
26 and shall invest the money in the YA Pathway Fund in the same manner as other State
27 money may be invested.

28 (ii) Any investment earnings of the YA Pathway Fund shall be
29 credited to the Fund.

1 (6) The Comptroller shall separately account for each source for the YA
2 Pathway Fund.

3 (7) The Department:

4 (i) may accept any gift or grant from any person for the YA Pathway
5 Fund;

6 (ii) shall use any gift or grant that it receives for the purposes listed
7 under paragraph (2) of this subsection; and

8 (iii) shall deposit with the State Treasurer any gift or grant that it
9 receives for the YA Pathway Fund.

10 (8) The YA Pathway Fund consists of:

11 (i) money appropriated to the YA Pathway Fund under the Program
12 in the State budget;

13 (ii) gifts or grants received by the Department for the YA Pathway
14 Fund;

15 (iii) investment earnings of the YA Pathway Fund; and

16 (iv) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit
17 of the YA Pathway Fund.

18 (9) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, any
19 unspent State appropriation of the YA Pathway Fund shall revert to the General Fund of
20 the State at the end of the fiscal year.

21 (ii) For fiscal years 2024 through 2026, any unspent portion of the
22 YA Pathway Fund may not be transferred or revert to the General Fund of the State but
23 shall remain in the YA Pathway Fund to be used for the purposes specified in this subtitle.

24 (10) Beginning with fiscal year 2024, at the end of each fiscal year, the
25 Department shall prepare an annual report of the YA Pathway Fund that includes:

26 (i) an accounting of all financial receipts and expenditures to and
27 from the YA Pathway Fund; and

28 (ii) the following information:

29 1. the total number of corps participants disaggregated by
30 demographic categories;

1 (2) The Department shall prioritize for participation in the MSY Pathway
2 under this section individuals who are **HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED IN:**

3 (i) [Maryland residents; and

4 (ii) historically underrepresented in:

5 1.] higher education enrollment or completion; or

6 [2.] **(II)** employment by:

7 [A.] 1. large-scale and community employers; or

8 [B.] 2. participating organizations.

9 (3) The Department shall prioritize for participation in the MSY Pathway
10 under this section organizations that provide wraparound services to corps participants.

11 (c) A corps participant who receives a service placement in the MSY Pathway
12 under this section shall:

13 (1) participate in all training related to the service placement;

14 (2) perform the duties of the service placement to the satisfaction of the
15 participating organization and the Department;

16 (3) participate in Program-wide events as determined by the Department;

17 (4) be paid **[\$15 per hour or] AT LEAST the APPLICABLE COUNTY OR**
18 State minimum wage, whichever is greater, for mandatory work hours or mandatory
19 Program activities; and

20 (5) on completion of the Program, be notified of all available post-Program
21 opportunities, including registered apprenticeships.

22 (d) The Department shall promote and publicize the availability of the MSY
23 Pathway opportunities to:

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

26 (2) community colleges;

27 (3) trade schools;

28 (4) faith-based institutions;

1 (5) youth who are disconnected from school or work; and

2 (6) employers and nonprofit organizations with potential service
3 placements for the MSY Pathway under this section.

4 (e) (1) There is a Maryland Service Year Option Pathway Fund.

5 (2) The purpose of the MSY Pathway Fund is to:

6 (i) provide stipends to corps participants with a service placement
7 in the [MSY Pathway] **PROGRAM** under this section;

8 (ii) provide Program completion awards to corps participants who
9 have completed the Program;

10 (iii) cover expenses incurred by the Department, including expenses
11 incurred to study the potential use of the Program as a workforce development tool in the
12 State;

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

15 (v) provide funding for the MSY Pathway under this section to
16 match gifts or grants received by the Department for the MSY Pathway Fund; and

17 (vi) assist in the creation of additional corps programs under §
18 21–207 of this subtitle.

19 (3) The Department shall administer the MSY Pathway Fund.

20 (4) Except as provided in paragraph (10) of this subsection, the MSY
21 Pathway Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of the State
22 Finance and Procurement Article.

23 (5) (i) The State Treasurer shall hold the MSY Pathway Fund
24 separately and shall invest the money in the MSY Pathway Fund in the same manner as
25 other State money may be invested.

26 (ii) Any investment earnings of the MSY Pathway Fund shall be
27 credited to the Fund.

28 (6) The Comptroller shall separately account for each source for the MSY
29 Pathway Fund.

30 (7) The Department:

1 (i) may accept any gift or grant from any person for the MSY
2 Pathway Fund;

3 (ii) shall use any gift or grant that it receives for the reasons stated
4 under paragraph (2) of this subsection; and

5 (iii) shall deposit any gift or grant that it receives for the MSY
6 Pathway Fund with the State Treasurer.

7 (8) The MSY Pathway Fund consists of:

8 (i) money appropriated under subsection (f) of this section;

9 (ii) gifts or grants received by the Department for the MSY Pathway
10 Fund;

11 (iii) investment earnings of the MSY Pathway Fund; and

12 (iv) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit
13 of the MSY Pathway Fund.

14 (9) The MSY Pathway Fund may be used only for the purposes described
15 in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

16 (10) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, any
17 unspent State appropriation of the MSY Pathway Fund shall revert to the General Fund
18 of the State at the end of the fiscal year.

19 (ii) For fiscal years 2024 through 2026, any unspent portion of the
20 MSY Pathway Fund may not be transferred or revert to the General Fund of the State but
21 shall remain in the MSY Pathway Fund to be used for the purposes specified in this
22 subtitle.

23 (11) [(i)] Beginning with fiscal year [2024] **2026**, at the end of each fiscal
24 year, the Department shall [prepare an annual report of] **INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL**
25 **REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER § 21-205(G) OF THIS SUBTITLE INFORMATION ON** the
26 MSY Pathway Fund that includes:

27 [1.] **(I)** an accounting of all financial receipts and
28 expenditures to and from the MSY Pathway Fund; and

29 [2.] **(II)** the following information:

30 [A.] **1.** the total number of corps participants
31 disaggregated by demographic categories;

1 [B.] 2. the total annual cost of the MSY Pathway
2 disaggregated by the source of the funds;

3 [C.] 3. corps participant transition after Program
4 completion into higher education, postsecondary education, full-time employment,
5 registered apprenticeships, and any other post-Program opportunity;

6 [D.] 4. the number of corps participants employed by State
7 or local government agencies after completion of the Program; and

8 [E.] 5. to the extent practicable, what former corps
9 participants are doing 1 year, 2 years, and 5 years after completing the Program.

10 [(ii) The Department shall submit a copy of the report to the General
11 Assembly in accordance with § 2-1257 of this article.]

12 (12) The MSY Pathway Fund may be subject to an audit by the Legislative
13 Auditor.

14 (f) (1) The Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation
15 to the MSY Pathway Fund of:

16 (i) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

17 (ii) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

18 (iii) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2026; and

19 (iv) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.

20 (2) It is the intent of the General Assembly that appropriations made under
21 paragraph (1) of this subsection are in addition to any federal funding received for State
22 service or volunteer programming.

23 (3) Appropriations made under paragraph (1) of this subsection and other
24 funding received by the Department for the MSY Pathway under this section shall be used
25 to:

26 (i) provide stipends to corps participants with a service placement
27 in the [MSY Pathway] **PROGRAM** under this section;

28 (ii) provide Program completion awards to corps participants who
29 have completed the Program;

30 (iii) cover expenses incurred by the Department, including expenses
31 incurred in marketing and recruitment; and

1 (iv) cover programmatic expenses to expand service opportunities
2 throughout the State, including expanding the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program,
3 as provided under §§ 8–1913 through 8–1924 of the Natural Resources Article.

4 21–209.

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

7 (1) the number and amount of stipends awarded under the Program;

8 (2) the businesses, nonprofit organizations, or government agencies with
9 which corps participants are placed;

10 (3) the institutions, if any, that award academic credit for a corps
11 participant's service; **AND**

12 (4) the number and amount of Program completion awards awarded under
13 the Program]; and

14 (5) the postsecondary educational institutions at which corps participants
15 use their Program completion awards].

16 21–301.

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

18 (b) “Corps” means the Maryland Service Corps.

19 (c) [“Council” means the Governor’s Volunteer Council.

20 (d)] “Office” means the Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism.

21 21–302.

22 There is a Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism within the [Governor’s
23 Office of Community Initiatives] **DEPARTMENT.**

24 [21–306.

25 (a) The Executive Fellows Program is established to provide an opportunity for
26 individuals from the private sector with demonstrated leadership and managerial potential
27 to participate in State government.

1 (b) Criteria or guidelines for the recruitment, selection, and assignment of
2 executive fellows shall be developed in consultation with representatives of the business
3 community and appropriate State units.

4 (c) A committee shall be appointed by the Governor to select qualified applicants
5 to participate in the Executive Fellows Program.]

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
7 1, 2025.