

Chapter 627

(House Bill 1219)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Educator Shortage Reduction Act of 2023

FOR the purpose of altering the qualifications for early childhood education teacher certification completed through an alternative teacher preparation program; altering the qualifications for early childhood education teacher certification completed through an alternative preparation program; requiring the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission, to establish specific goals for the recruitment and retention of teachers in teacher preparation programs in the State; requiring the Department to establish and maintain a Maryland Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Diversity Dashboard; stating the intent of the General Assembly for Maryland to join the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact as a member state; specifying that the General Assembly and the State Board of Education shall ensure that certain steps are taken for Maryland to become a member state in the Compact; transferring the administration of the Teaching Fellows for Maryland program from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to the Department; including under the category of altering the period of time by which certain “high staff qualifications” for publicly funded eligible prekindergarten providers certain early childhood education teachers employed for a certain period of time; must begin being implemented; altering the requirements for, and expanding the purpose of, the Nancy Grasmick Teacher Award to include mental health professionals employed by public schools in the State; renaming the Nancy Grasmick Teacher Award to be the Nancy Grasmick Public School Professional Award; altering the qualifications for applicants and recipients of the Teaching Fellows for Maryland program; establishing the Crow Our Own Educators Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to individuals who pledge to fulfill a certain service obligation as a full-time teacher in the State; requiring the Department Teacher Development and Retention Program to provide support to students interested in pursuing careers in the teaching profession; requiring the Commission to administer the Program and to take certain actions to develop and implement the Program; requiring the Commission to take certain actions to evaluate the Program; establishing the Crow Our Own Educators Scholarship Teacher Development and Retention Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; requiring the Office of Student Financial Assistance within the Maryland Higher Education Commission to consider a certain recipient of a Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship to be in compliance with certain service obligation requirements under certain circumstances; establishing the Educator Internship Stipend Program to provide stipends to student teachers in internships working directly with students; requiring the Department to administer the Program and take certain actions to evaluate the Program; and generally relating to the recruitment and retention of teachers in the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section ~~6-120(a) and (b), 6-120(a) and (b)~~, 6-121, 7-1A-04(a), 18-1501 through 18-1503, 18-1506, 18-2201 through 18-2204, 18-2206, 18-2209, and 18-2210

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education

Section 18-2205

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section ~~6-128 and 6-129, 6-128; and 18-2701 through 18-2705~~ 18-2706 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 27. ~~Grow Our Own Educators Scholarship~~ Teacher Development and Retention Program”; ~~and 18-2801 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 28. Educator Internship Stipend Program”~~

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – State Finance and Procurement

Section 6-226(a)(2)(i)

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Finance and Procurement

Section 6-226(a)(2)(ii)170. and 171.

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – State Finance and Procurement

Section 6-226(a)(2)(ii)172.

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

6-120.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Alternative teacher preparation program” means a program [established]:

(I) ESTABLISHED by a county board, AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION and approved by the State Superintendent [that:];

[(i)] (II) [Leads] THAT LEADS to a participant receiving a Resident Teacher Certificate issued by the Department; and

[(ii)] (III) [Includes] THAT INCLUDES teaching assignments with supervision and mentoring by a qualified teacher.

(3) “ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-1A-01 OF THIS ARTICLE.

[(3)] (4) “Partner school” means a local school system, nonpublic school, [or] nonpublic special education school, OR ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER that has a written partnership agreement with an institution of higher education or alternative teacher preparation program to provide a teacher training practicum for participants enrolled in a teacher preparation program at the institution of higher education or alternative teacher preparation program.

(b) (1) Each participant in an undergraduate and a graduate teacher preparation program shall complete a teacher training practicum as a requirement for graduation.

(2) [An] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN alternative teacher preparation program shall require each participant to successfully complete a teacher training practicum.

(3) (I) AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM FOR AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CERTIFICATION SHALL REQUIRE EACH PARTICIPANT TO SUCCESSFULLY:

1. COMPLETE A TEACHER TRAINING PRACTICUM; OR

2. SATISFY CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH THAT EVALUATE THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FROM PRIOR LEARNING RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

(II) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SHALL ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR AND CRITERIA TO EVALUATE THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FROM PRIOR LEARNING RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, INCLUDING FROM A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP.

~~6-120.~~

(a) (1) ~~In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

(2) ~~“Alternative teacher preparation program” means a program [established];~~

~~(i) 1. ESTABLISHED by a county board, AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION and approved by the State Superintendent [that]; OR~~

~~2. ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT;~~

~~[(i)] (ii) [Leads] THAT LEADS to a participant receiving a Resident Teacher Certificate issued by the Department; and~~

~~[(ii)] (iii) [Includes] THAT INCLUDES teaching assignments with supervision and mentoring by a qualified teacher.~~

~~(3) “ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-1A-01 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

~~[(3)] (4) “Partner school” means a local school system, nonpublic school, [or] nonpublic special education school, OR ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER that has a written partnership agreement with an institution of higher education or alternative teacher preparation program to provide a teacher training practicum for participants enrolled in a teacher preparation program at the institution of higher education or alternative teacher preparation program.~~

(b) (1) ~~Each participant in an undergraduate and a graduate teacher preparation program shall complete a teacher training practicum as a requirement for graduation.~~

(2) ~~[An] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN alternative teacher preparation program shall require each participant to successfully complete a teacher training practicum.~~

~~(3) (i) AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM FOR AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CERTIFICATION SHALL REQUIRE EACH PARTICIPANT TO SUCCESSFULLY:~~

~~1. COMPLETE A TEACHER TRAINING PRACTICUM; OR~~

~~2. SATISFY CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (ii) OF THIS PARAGRAPH THAT EVALUATE THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FROM PRIOR LEARNING RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.~~

~~(ii) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SHALL ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR AND CRITERIA TO EVALUATE THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FROM PRIOR LEARNING RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, INCLUDING FROM A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP.~~

6-121.

(a) A teacher preparation program shall:

(1) Include the following components of instruction:

(i) Basic research skills and methods and training on the routine evaluation and use of research and data to improve student performance;

(ii) Differentiation of instruction and demonstration of cultural competence for students of diverse racial, ethnic, linguistic, and economic backgrounds with different learning abilities;

(iii) Implementation of restorative approaches for student behaviors;

(iv) Identifying and assessing, in the context of the classroom, typical student learning deficits and techniques to remedy learning deficits;

(v) Recognizing and effectively using high quality instructional materials, including digital resources and computer technology;

(vi) Core academic subjects that teachers will be teaching;

(vii) Methods and techniques for identifying and addressing the social and emotional needs of students, including trauma-informed approaches to pedagogy; and

(viii) Skills and techniques for effective classroom management;

(2) Require program participants to demonstrate competency in each of the components required under paragraph (1) of this subsection;

(3) Provide training in the knowledge and skills required to understand and teach the Maryland curriculum frameworks; and

(4) On or after July 1, 2025, require passing a nationally recognized, portfolio-based assessment of teaching ability as a requirement for graduation.

(b) Each teacher preparation program shall incorporate classroom observations in which the program participant is observed in different school settings at the beginning of the teacher preparation program to assist a program participant in determining if the program participant has the aptitude and temperament for teaching.

(c) A teacher preparation program shall develop a method for regularly communicating and collaborating with local school systems, including, if necessary, through financial memoranda of understanding, to strengthen teacher preparation, induction, and professional development programs.

(d) (1) An institution of higher education that offers graduate level courses in school administration shall develop:

(i) A method for evaluating the potential of program participants to be effective school leaders; and

(ii) A curriculum to enable school leaders to organize and manage schools to achieve the effectiveness of top-performing schools or school systems, including:

1. Management of highly skilled professionals in a professional work environment; and

2. Effective peer observations and effective evaluations of other personnel.

(2) These courses shall include clinical experience and assessments to determine whether participants demonstrate competency in these areas.

(e) An institution of higher education:

(1) May, if the institution of higher education shows cause, expand the total number of credit hours required to graduate from an undergraduate teacher preparation program by up to 12 credits; and

(2) May not require a number of credit hours in excess of 132 total credit hours to graduate from an undergraduate teacher preparation program.

(f) To further support and strengthen the profession of teaching in the State, the Department shall:

(1) Provide technical assistance and other supports to teacher preparation programs at institutions of higher education in the State;

(2) Develop a systemic method of providing feedback to teacher preparation programs to ensure that institutions of higher education have the most current information about the content, composition, and expectations for teachers of prekindergarten through 12th grade classes; [and]

(3) Assist teacher preparation programs in seeking and retaining highly qualified individuals, including individuals from groups historically underrepresented in the teaching profession;

(4) ~~ESTABLISH~~ IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION, ESTABLISH SPECIFIC GOALS FOR THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF TEACHERS IN TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE STATE; AND

(5) ~~REQUIRE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS THAT FAIL TO MEET THE GOALS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER ITEM (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO SUBMIT AN ACTION PLAN TO THE DEPARTMENT~~ WORK WITH TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS THAT FAIL TO MEET THE GOALS ESTABLISHED UNDER ITEM (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN THAT DEMONSTRATES HOW THE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM WILL MEET THE GOALS.

(g) The State Board and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board shall, in consultation with the Accountability and Implementation Board established under § 5-402 of this article, adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this section.

6-128.

(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A MARYLAND EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND DIVERSITY DASHBOARD.

(2) ~~THE~~ SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DASHBOARD SHALL INCLUDE DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND KEY DATA POINTS REGARDING EDUCATORS IN CLASSROOMS AND PROSPECTIVE EDUCATORS WITHIN TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE STATE;

(I) CERTIFICATED AND NONCERTIFICATED PERSONNEL IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND

(II) PROSPECTIVE EDUCATORS WITHIN TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE STATE WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN TEACHER INTERNSHIPS.

(3) (I) THE DASHBOARD MAY NOT INCLUDE ANY DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION THAT COULD BE USED TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS.

(II) ANY DEMOGRAPHIC THAT IS LESS THAN 5% OF THE RELEVANT POPULATION MAY BE REPORTED SIMPLY AS "< 5%".

(B) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND EACH DECEMBER 1 THEREAFTER, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT DEMOGRAPHIC AND JOB STATUS INFORMATION ON EDUCATORS EMPLOYED BY, AND TEACHER INTERNS PLACED IN, THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD DURING THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR.

(2) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL REPORT THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DISAGGREGATED BY:

(I) SCHOOL;

(II) GENDER;

(III) RACE;

(IV) ETHNICITY;

(V) AVERAGE LENGTH OF SERVICE;

(VI) STATUS ON THE CAREER LADDER ESTABLISHED UNDER § 6-1002 OF THIS TITLE;

(VII) NUMBER OF EDUCATORS HIRED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD; AND

(VIII) ATTRITION RATES OF EDUCATORS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.

~~6-129.~~

~~(A) IN THIS SECTION, "COMPACT" MEANS THE INTERSTATE TEACHER MOBILITY COMPACT.~~

~~(B) (1) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO JOIN THE INTERSTATE TEACHER MOBILITY COMPACT AS A MEMBER STATE.~~

~~(2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE STATE BOARD SHALL ENSURE THAT ALL NECESSARY STEPS ARE TAKEN FOR MARYLAND TO BECOME A MEMBER STATE IN THE COMPACT.~~

~~(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE INTERSTATE TEACHER MOBILITY COMPACT IS TO FACILITATE THE LICENSURE OF TEACHERS ACROSS THE MEMBER STATES, WITH THE GOAL OF IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND SERVING THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS ACROSS THE MEMBER STATES TO RECEIVE A QUALITY EDUCATION FROM QUALIFIED TEACHERS.~~

~~(D) (1) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR A STANDARD PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE, AN INDIVIDUAL IN A COMPACT MEMBER STATE SHALL:~~

~~(I) HOLD A BACHELOR'S DEGREE; AND~~

~~(II) HAVE COMPLETED ALL REQUIREMENTS OF A PROGRAM FOR TEACHER LICENSURE APPROVED BY THE LICENSING AUTHORITY OF THE COMPACT MEMBER STATE.~~

~~(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR A STANDARD PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE UNDER THIS SECTION, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE A REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS TO UNDERGO A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK.~~

~~(3) ON RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION FOR A STANDARD PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE UNDER THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:~~

~~(I) ISSUE THE LICENSE TO THE APPLICANT; OR~~

~~(II) SHOW CAUSE FOR THE DENIAL TO ISSUE A LICENSE TO THE APPLICANT.~~

~~(4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A NOTICE AND APPEAL PROCESS FOR APPLICANTS TO APPEAL DECISIONS MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.~~

~~(E) (1) THE STATE BOARD AND THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD MAY ESTABLISH REGULATIONS AUTHORIZING THE AUTOMATIC ISSUANCE OF A PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE TO TEACHERS WHO ARE LICENSED IN A COMPACT MEMBER STATE.~~

~~(2) A PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS MINIMAL EQUIVALENCY AS THE ELIGIBLE LICENSE UNDER THE COMPACT.~~

~~(F) WHEN A LICENSE ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION IS UP FOR RENEWAL, THE DEPARTMENT MAY REQUIRE THE TEACHER TO COMPLETE STATE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AS A CONDITION FOR RENEWAL OF THE LICENSE.~~

7-1A-04.

(a) All eligible prekindergarten providers shall include structural elements that are evidence-based and nationally recognized as important for ensuring program quality, including:

(1) Beginning in the ~~2025-2026~~ 2027-2028 school year:

(i) High staff qualifications, including teachers who, at a minimum ~~], hold]~~:

1. ~~[State] HOLD STATE~~ certification for teaching in early childhood education; ~~[or]~~

2. ~~[A] HOLD A~~ bachelor's degree in any field and are pursuing residency through the Maryland Approved Alternative Preparation Program, which includes early childhood coursework, clinical practice, and evidence of pedagogical content knowledge; ~~OR~~

~~3. ARE PURSUING STATE CERTIFICATION THROUGH AN ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER § 6-120 OF THIS ARTICLE~~

~~A. HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN THE FIELD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025;~~

~~B. MEET THE EDUCATIONAL CRITERIA IN EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2023, FOR A CHILD CARE CENTER TEACHER OR A CHILD CARE PROVIDER IN A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME OR A LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME; AND~~

~~C. HAVE BEEN ASSESSED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, THROUGH AN IN-CLASSROOM OBSERVATION AS HAVING SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FROM PRIOR LEARNING AND JOB EXPERIENCE TO PROVIDE EXCELLENT EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION;~~ and

(ii) Teaching assistants who have at least:

1. A Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate; or
2. An associate's degree;
- (2) Professional development for all staff;
- (3) A student-to-classroom personnel ratio of no more than 10 to 1 in each class;
- (4) Class sizes of no more than 20 students per classroom;
- (5) A full-day prekindergarten program;
- (6) Inclusion of students with disabilities to ensure access to and full participation in all program opportunities;
- (7) For at least 1 year before a student's enrollment in kindergarten, learning environments that:
 - (i) Are aligned with State Early Learning and Development Standards;
 - (ii) Use evidence-based curricula; and
 - (iii) Use instruction methods that are:
 1. Developmentally appropriate; and
 2. Culturally and linguistically responsive;
- (8) Individualized accommodations and supports for all students;
- (9) Instructional staff salaries and benefits that are comparable to the salaries and benefits of instructional staff employed by the county board of the county in which the early learning program is located;
- (10) Program evaluation to ensure continuous program improvement;
- (11) On-site or accessible comprehensive services for students;
- (12) Community partnerships that promote access to comprehensive services for families of students; and
- (13) Evidence-based health and safety standards.

18-1501.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(D) (1) “MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS:

~~(1) A PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE CERTIFICATED UNDER TITLE 6, SUBTITLE 4 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND~~

~~(2) EMPLOYED IN A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, INCLUDING AS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST, RESOURCE PSYCHOLOGIST, PSYCHOLOGIST COORDINATOR, SOCIAL WORKER, SOCIAL WORKER SUPERVISOR, SCHOOL COUNSELOR, OR MENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR PROVIDES MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND IS EMPLOYED BY:~~

~~(I) A COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM; OR~~

~~(II) A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH AN AGREEMENT WITH A COUNTY BOARD.~~

~~(2) “MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL” INCLUDES A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST, RESOURCE PSYCHOLOGIST, PSYCHOLOGIST COORDINATOR, SOCIAL WORKER, SOCIAL WORKER SUPERVISOR, SCHOOL COUNSELOR, OR MENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR.~~

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

18-1502.

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

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

(1) ~~[(i)]~~ Receives a graduate, professional, or undergraduate degree from:

~~[(1)]~~ A college or university in the State of Maryland; ~~or~~

~~[(2)]~~ A school of law; or

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

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

(2) Obtains eligible employment;

(3) Receives an income that is less than the maximum eligible total income levels established by the Office, including any additional sources of income; and

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

~~(c) (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section AND PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, the Office shall assist in the repayment of the amount of any higher education loan owed by a public school teacher OR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL in the State who:~~

~~(1) Has taught] HAS BEEN EMPLOYED in Maryland for at least [2 years:]~~
1 YEAR.

~~[(i)] (2) [In] A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER MUST HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN MARYLAND FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR TEACHING IN science, technology, engineering, fine arts, or math subjects[;:]~~

~~[(ii)] (1) In a school in which at least the following percentages of the students are enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program in the State:~~

~~1. 75% through June 30, 2025; and~~

~~2. 55% beginning July 1, 2025; or~~

~~[(iii)] (II) In a school that:~~

~~1. Had Title I status during the 2018–2019 school year;~~

~~2. Lost Title I status after the 2018–2019 school year; and~~

~~3. Participates in the United States Department of Agriculture Community Eligibility Provision; and~~

~~(2) Has received the highest performance evaluation rating for the most recent year available in the county in which the teacher taught;.~~

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

(1) PUBLIC school teacher in the State who:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and

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

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

(2) MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WHO HAS PROVIDED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS AS AN EMPLOYEE OF:

(I) A COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM; OR

(II) A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT THROUGH AN AGREEMENT WITH A COUNTY BOARD.

(d) (1) A grant awarded under subsection (c) of this section shall be known as the Nancy Grasmick [Teacher] PUBLIC SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL Award.

(2) A recipient of a Nancy Grasmick [Teacher] PUBLIC SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL Award shall be known as a Nancy Grasmick [Teacher] PUBLIC SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL Scholar.

(e) An applicant for assistance in the repayment of a commercial loan shall demonstrate to the Office that the commercial loan was used for tuition, educational expenses, or living expenses for graduate or undergraduate study.

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

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

18-1503.

(a) The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall adopt regulations to establish:

(1) The maximum starting income for eligibility in the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program;

(2) The maximum total income for eligibility in the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program, including any additional sources of income;

(3) That priority for participation in the Program shall be given to an individual who:

(i) Graduated from an institution of higher education in the last 3 years;

(ii) Is a resident of the State;

(iii) Is employed on a full-time basis; and

(iv) 1. Provides, as the principal part of the individual's employment, legal services to low-income residents in the State who cannot afford legal services, nursing services in nursing shortage areas in the State as defined in § 18-802 of this title, or other services in an eligible field of employment in which there is a shortage of qualified practitioners to low-income or underserved residents or areas of the State; or

2. For teacher AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL applicants only, qualifies for a Nancy Grasmick [Teacher] PUBLIC SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL Award;

(4) A limit on the total amount of assistance provided by the Office of Student Financial Assistance in repaying the loan of an eligible individual, based on the individual's total income and outstanding higher education loan balance;

(5) A procedure and schedule for the monthly or annual payment of the amount of loan assistance provided by the Office of Student Financial Assistance to the eligible individual, as appropriate to assist an eligible individual in meeting loan forgiveness program requirements;

(6) A requirement that an eligible individual apply to federal loan forgiveness programs for which the individual may qualify;

(7) A requirement that an eligible individual notify the Office of Student Financial Assistance if the individual receives other loan repayment assistance; and

(8) An annual review of the eligibility of each individual participating in the Program.

(b) [The Office of Student Financial Assistance may not approve more than 50% of the total number of awards for teacher applicants to Nancy Grasmick Teacher Scholars.

(c)] The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall adopt any other regulations necessary to implement this subtitle.

18-1506.

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

(1) At historically black colleges and universities; ~~and~~

(2) In a manner that focuses on students who are historically underrepresented in the teaching field] AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL FIELDS; AND

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

18-2201.

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

(b) “Eligible institution” means a:

(1) Public senior higher education institution in the State that possesses a certificate of approval from the Commission and has a department, school, or college of education; or

(2) Private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State that possesses a certificate of approval from the Commission, has a department, school, or college of education, and agrees to provide a matching grant to an undergraduate or graduate student, as appropriate, who receives a Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship in the lesser of:

(i) 100% of the annual cost of tuition and mandatory fees at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus; or

(ii) 50% of the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at the private nonprofit institution of higher education.

[(c) “Office” means the Office of Student Financial Assistance as defined in § 18-101(c) of this title.]

[(d)] (C) (1) “Service obligation” means to teach full time in the State as a teacher in a Maryland public school or a public prekindergarten program [that has at least 50% of its students eligible for free or reduced price meals (FRPM)]:

(I) THAT IS IN A HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOL, AS ~~DEFINED~~ IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT; OR

(II) IN A GRADE LEVEL OR CONTENT AREA IN WHICH THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED EDUCATORS, AS ~~DETERMINED~~ IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) “Service obligation” does not mean employment as teaching assistants, volunteer service, paid fellowships, or internships.

18–2202.

(A) There is a program of Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarships that are awarded under this subtitle for students who pledge to work as public school or public prekindergarten teachers in the State upon completion of their studies at [schools that have at least 50% of the students in the school eligible for free or reduced price meals (FRPM)]:

(1) A HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOL, AS ~~DEFINED~~ IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT; OR

(2) IN A GRADE LEVEL OR CONTENT AREA IN WHICH THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED EDUCATORS, AS ~~DETERMINED~~ IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) ~~(1)~~ EACH YEAR THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE OFFICE A LIST OF HIGH-NEEDS:

(1) HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOLS IN WHICH THERE ARE A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF:

(i) TEACHER VACANCIES; AND

(ii) TEACHERS TEACHING IN A GRADE LEVEL OR CONTENT AREA OTHER THAN THE GRADE LEVEL OR CONTENT AREA IN WHICH THEY ARE CERTIFICATED; AND

(2) ~~EACH YEAR THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE OFFICE A LIST OF GRADE~~ GRADE LEVELS AND CONTENT AREAS IN WHICH THERE ARE A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF:

(i) TEACHER VACANCIES; AND

(ii) TEACHERS TEACHING IN A GRADE LEVEL OR CONTENT AREA OTHER THAN THE GRADE LEVEL OR CONTENT AREA IN WHICH THEY ARE CERTIFICATED.

18–2203.

(a) ~~{The Office shall annually}~~ ~~EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL~~ select eligible students and offer a scholarship to each student selected to be used at an eligible institution of their choice.

(b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a recipient of the Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship shall:

(i) [Be a Maryland resident or have graduated from a Maryland high school;

(ii)] Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, be accepted for admission or currently enrolled at an eligible institution as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a course of study or program in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;

[(iii) 1. Have achieved at least:

A. For a student currently enrolled in high school, an overall grade point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent, or an overall grade point average in the top 15% of the student's grade, after completion of the first semester of the senior year;

B. For a student currently enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student, a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale and satisfactory progress toward a degree in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;

C. A score of 500 on the reading and math portions of the SAT, with a combined score of at least 1100 on the reading and math portions of the SAT;

D. A composite ACT score of 25; or

E. A score of 50% on the GRE; and

2. Have demonstrated an exceptional dedication to or aptitude for teaching;]

~~(II) 1. BE IN THE TOP 25% OF THE STUDENT'S GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS, CONTINUE TO MAKE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD A DEGREE, AND MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS OF THE INSTITUTION;~~

~~2. HAVE A 3.0 UNWEIGHTED CUMULATIVE HIGH SCHOOL GRADE POINT AVERAGE ON A 4.0 SCALE, CONTINUE TO MAKE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD A DEGREE, AND MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS OF THE INSTITUTION; OR~~

~~3. CONTINUE TO MAKE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD A DEGREE, AND MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS OF THE INSTITUTION, AND~~

~~SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE DEAN OR CHAIR OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION OR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT IN WHICH THE TEACHING CREDENTIAL PROGRAM IS HOUSED AT THE APPLICANT'S INSTITUTION;~~

[(iv)] (III) Sign a letter of intent to perform the service obligation upon completion of the recipient's required studies;

[(v)] (IV) Accept any other conditions attached to the award; and

[(vi)] (V) Satisfy any additional criteria the ~~Commission~~ **DEPARTMENT** may establish.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, an individual who, at the time the individual is scheduled to matriculate at an eligible institution, will have been employed as a teaching assistant at a public school or public prekindergarten program in the State for at least 2 years:

(i) May apply for a Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship under this subtitle; and

(ii) Is eligible to hold a Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student.

(3) A recipient of the Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship may be an individual who is enrolled or plans to enroll at an eligible institution as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student who:

(i) Changes majors to pursue a course of study or program in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate; or

(ii) Seeks to change careers to pursue a course of study or program in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate.

(4) IN SELECTING AWARDEES FOR A TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP, THE OFFICE SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO APPLICANTS, INCLUDING THOSE APPLYING UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, WHO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR A PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM WITHIN THE LAST 5 YEARS.

(c) A recipient of the Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship may not hold a Maryland professional teacher's certificate.

(d) (1) Applicants who are secondary school students shall provide a high school transcript after completion of the first semester of their senior year.

(2) Applicants who are currently enrolled in an eligible institution shall provide the most recent college transcript, or if not applicable, the applicant may submit a final high school transcript.

(3) Applicants who are not currently enrolled in an eligible institution, but who are high school graduates, shall provide a final high school transcript.

(4) Applicants who are high school graduates and are not currently enrolled in an eligible institution, but have completed some courses at an eligible institution, shall provide the most recent college transcript.

(5) Applicants who are not currently enrolled in an eligible institution, but who are college graduates, shall provide a final college transcript.

18-2204.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the recipient of a Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship shall repay the ~~Commission~~ **DEPARTMENT** the funds received ~~as set forth in § 18-112 of this title~~ if the recipient does not:

(1) Satisfy the degree requirements of the eligible course of study or program or fulfill other requirements as provided in this subtitle;

(2) ~~Subject to subsection (b) of this section, perform~~ **PERFORM** the service obligation to teach in a public school or a public prekindergarten program [that has at least 50% of its students eligible for free or reduced price meals (FRPM)] **IN A HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOL, AS DEFINED IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT, OR IN A GRADE LEVEL OR CONTENT AREA IN WHICH THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED EDUCATORS, AS IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT**, for a period of:

~~(i) For a recipient who received a scholarship as an undergraduate student, 1 year for each year that the recipient has a scholarship awarded under this subtitle; and~~

~~(ii) For a recipient who received a scholarship as a graduate student, at least 2 years; and~~

(3) Become professionally certified to teach in the State of Maryland within the time period specified by the ~~Commission in consultation with the Maryland~~ Department [of Education].

(b) **(1)** If a recipient is unable to perform the service obligation required under this subtitle because there are no available positions in a [public school or public prekindergarten program that has at least 50% of its students eligible for free or reduced price meals (FRPM)] **QUALIFYING SCHOOL, GRADE LEVEL, OR SUBJECT CONTENT**

AREA, the recipient may work in any public school or public prekindergarten program in the State.

(2) IF A RECIPIENT PERFORMS THE SERVICE OBLIGATION BY TEACHING AT A SCHOOL, GRADE LEVEL, OR CONTENT AREA PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS ~~HIGH-NEEDS~~ HIGH-NEEDS THAT IS NO LONGER IDENTIFIED AS ~~HIGH-NEEDS~~ HIGH-NEEDS, THE RECIPIENT MAY CONTINUE TO TEACH IN THAT SCHOOL, GRADE LEVEL, OR CONTENT AREA WITHOUT BEING REQUIRED TO REPAY THE FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

(c) The ~~{Office}~~ **DEPARTMENT** shall forgive a recipient of a Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship for 2 years of an award if:

(1) (i) The recipient has taken the teacher certification examination, approved by the State Board of Education, in 2 consecutive years; and

(ii) The recipient fails to pass the teacher certification examination within the time period specified by the ~~{Commission}~~ **DEPARTMENT** in accordance with subsection (a)(3) of this section; or

(2) The recipient provides to the ~~{Office}~~ **DEPARTMENT** satisfactory evidence of extenuating circumstances that prevent the recipient from becoming professionally certified to teach in the State.

18-2205.

(a) The annual scholarship award shall be:

(1) At a public senior higher education institution in the State that has a department, school, or college of education, 100% of the equivalent annual tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board of a resident undergraduate student or graduate student, as appropriate, at the public senior higher education institution; or

(2) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, at a private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State that has a department, school, or college of education, an amount equal to:

(i) The lesser of:

1. 100% of the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate student or graduate student, as appropriate, at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus; or

2. 50% of the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate or graduate student, as appropriate, at the eligible private nonprofit institution of higher education; and

(ii) 100% of the room and board of a resident undergraduate student or graduate student, as appropriate, at the eligible private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State.

(b) A private nonprofit institution of higher education shall provide a matching scholarship award in an amount equal to the award calculated in subsection (a)(2)(i) of this section.

18-2206.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, each recipient of a Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship may renew the award three times if the recipient:

(1) [Continues to be a resident of the State or graduated from a high school in the State;

(2)] Continues to be a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student at an eligible institution as determined by the Office; AND

[(3) Has achieved a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3 on a 4.0 scale and maintains this minimum cumulative grade point average throughout the remainder of this award, or failing to do so, provides evidence of extenuating circumstances;

(4) In the judgment of the institution, is making satisfactory progress toward a degree; and

(5) Maintains the standards of the institution]

~~(2) (I) HAS ACHIEVED A 3.0 CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE ON A 4.0 SCALE, CONTINUES TO MAKE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD A DEGREE, AND MAINTAINS THE STANDARDS OF THE INSTITUTION; OR~~

~~(H) CONTINUES TO MAKE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD A DEGREE, AND MAINTAINS THE STANDARDS OF THE INSTITUTION, AND SUBMITS A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE DEAN OR CHAIR OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION OR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT IN WHICH THE TEACHING CREDENTIAL PROGRAM IS HOUSED AT THE APPLICANT'S INSTITUTION.~~

(b) Each recipient of the Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship may renew the annual award four times if the recipient is enrolled in a course of study that, as determined by the institution, requires 5 years to complete.

18-2209.

The Governor annually shall include **IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF** at least the following amounts [in the State budget] for the ~~Commission~~ **DEPARTMENT** to award scholarships under this subtitle:

- (1) For fiscal year 2022, \$4,000,000;
- (2) For fiscal year 2023, \$8,000,000;
- (3) For fiscal year 2024, \$12,000,000; and
- (4) For fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, ~~[\$18,000,000]~~ **\$10,000,000.**

18-2210.

(A) (1) The ~~[Office of Student Financial Assistance shall:~~

~~(1) Publicize],~~ **IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL PUBLICIZE** the availability of Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarships [; and].

(2) **THE DEPARTMENT OFFICE SHALL FOCUS ON PUBLICIZING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIPS:**

(I) **AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE STATE; AND**

(II) **TO TEACHING ASSISTANTS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF CURRENTLY WORKING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS; AND**

(III) **IN A MANNER THAT PROMOTES THE PROGRAM TO STUDENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF GROUPS THAT ARE UNDERREPRESENTED IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION.**

[(2)] (B) To the extent practicable, **THE DEPARTMENT OFFICE SHALL** award scholarships under this subtitle in a manner that reflects ethnic, gender, racial, and geographic diversity.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

SUBTITLE 27. ~~CROW OUR OWN EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP~~ TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM.

18-2701.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS:

(1) ~~A RESIDENT OF THE STATE ENROLLED IN THE FIRST OR SECOND YEAR AT AN INSTITUTION OF INITIAL ELIGIBILITY; AND~~

(2) INTERESTED IN PURSUING A CAREER IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

~~(C) “ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION” MEANS AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THIS STATE THAT POSSESSES A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FROM THE COMMISSION AND HAS A DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL, OR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.~~

~~(D) “ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-1A-01 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

~~(E)~~ (C) “FUND” MEANS THE ~~CROW OUR OWN EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP~~ TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

(D) “INSTITUTION OF INITIAL ELIGIBILITY” MEANS AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE WHERE AT LEAST 40% OF THE ATTENDEES ~~ARE ELIGIBLE TO~~ RECEIVE FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.

~~(F)~~ (E) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE ~~CROW OUR OWN EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP~~ TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

18-2702.

(A) (1) THERE IS A ~~CROW OUR OWN EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP~~ TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM.

(2) THE TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM IS A PILOT PROGRAM DESIGNED TO INCENTIVIZE A COHORT OF STUDENTS TO PURSUE A CAREER IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

(B) (1) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE ~~SCHOLARSHIPS~~ SUPPORT TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO ULTIMATELY PLEDGE TO FULFILL A SERVICE OBLIGATION AS A TEACHER EMPLOYED FULL-TIME ~~BY A COUNTY BOARD OR AN ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER IN THE STATE~~ IN A HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOL, GRADE LEVEL, OR CONTENT AREA IN THE STATE IN WHICH THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS, AS IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE ~~AN INCREASING LEVEL OF~~ FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN PURSUING A CAREER IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION, BEGINNING BY OFFERING ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS A ONE-TIME STIPEND FOR PARTICIPATION IN AN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY IN A CLASSROOM AND CONCLUDING BY PLACING THOSE INDIVIDUALS IN HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOLS, GRADE LEVELS, OR CONTENT AREAS.

(C) ~~IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSION, THE DEPARTMENT~~ THE OFFICE SHALL ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR AN APPLICANT TO:

(1) ~~BE A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;~~

(2) (i) ~~BE ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION IN A TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION IN THE STATE; OR~~

(ii) ~~BE ACCEPTED IN AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM UNDER § 6-120 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND~~

(3) ~~BE ENROLLED IN THE FIRST OR SECOND YEAR AT AN INSTITUTION OF INITIAL ELIGIBILITY IN AN ASSOCIATE'S OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM; AND~~

(2) ~~PLEDGE~~ BEFORE RECEIVING AN EDUCATOR INTERNSHIP STIPEND UNDER § 18-2703 OF THIS SUBTITLE, PLEDGE TO FULFILL A SERVICE OBLIGATION AS A TEACHER EMPLOYED FULL-TIME ~~BY A COUNTY BOARD OR AN ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER IN THE STATE FOR A MINIMUM OF 4~~ IN A HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOL, GRADE LEVEL, OR CONTENT AREA IN WHICH THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS, AS IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT, FOR A MINIMUM OF 2 YEARS.

(D) ~~(1)~~ THE DEPARTMENT OFFICE SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM AND ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY TO THE PROGRAM.

~~(2) THE DEPARTMENT'S PROCESS SHALL INCLUDE ESTABLISHING A HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND DIVERSE APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS FROM ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ACCEPTED IN AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM UNDER § 6-120 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

(E) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OFFICE SHALL DEVELOP A PROCESS FOR AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS *STIPENDS* TO INDIVIDUALS WHO MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PROGRAM.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO RECIPIENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM OFFICE SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR A PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM WITHIN THE LAST 5 YEARS.

18-2703.

~~(A) EACH RECIPIENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL USE THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.~~

~~(B) EACH RECIPIENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL SIGN AN AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF THE INITIAL AWARD TO:~~

~~(1) FULFILL A 4-YEAR SERVICE OBLIGATION AS A TEACHER EMPLOYED FULL-TIME BY A COUNTY BOARD OR AN ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER IN THE STATE WITHIN 6 YEARS OF GRADUATION FROM A TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION; AND~~

~~(2) REPAY THE STATE THE AMOUNTS AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IF THE RECIPIENT DOES NOT FULFILL THE SERVICE OBLIGATION OR DOES NOT GRADUATE FROM A TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.~~

~~(C) A RECIPIENT'S SCHOLARSHIP AWARD SHALL BE TERMINATED IF THE RECIPIENT DOES NOT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM AT THE ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION IN WHICH THE RECIPIENT IS ENROLLED.~~

~~(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL WAIVE REPAYMENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR A RECIPIENT WHO IS UNABLE TO FULFILL THE SERVICE OBLIGATION OR~~

~~DOES NOT GRADUATE FROM A TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION DUE TO MEDICAL REASONS.~~

~~(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL WORK WITH COUNTY BOARDS AND ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDERS TO ENSURE EMPLOYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AFTER GRADUATION.~~

(A) (1) ~~A~~ IN EACH SCHOOL YEAR FROM THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR THROUGH THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR, A RECIPIENT WHO IS SELECTED FOR SUPPORT UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL RECEIVE AN INITIAL STIPEND TO SUPPORT THE RECIPIENT'S PARTICIPATION IN AN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM.

(2) THE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY SHALL:

(I) OCCUR WITHIN THE FIRST OR SECOND YEAR OF THE RECIPIENT'S ENROLLMENT IN AN INSTITUTION OF INITIAL ELIGIBILITY; AND

(II) CONTRIBUTE TO THE EDUCATION OF THE STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM IN WHICH THE RECIPIENT PARTICIPATES.

(3) THE PURPOSE OF THE INITIAL STIPEND AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IS TO NURTURE IN THE RECIPIENT A PASSION FOR BECOMING A TEACHER.

(4) IF THE INSTITUTION OF INITIAL ELIGIBILITY HAS A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH A PUBLIC PARTNER SCHOOL OR PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING PRACTICUM UNDER § 6-120 OF THIS ARTICLE, THEN THE RECIPIENT'S EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY SHALL BE IN A CLASSROOM WITHIN THE PARTNER SCHOOL.

(5) THE OFFICE SHALL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF THE INITIAL STIPENDS AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

~~(B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF A RECIPIENT INITIALLY SELECTED FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED IN PURSUING A CAREER IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION, THE RECIPIENT MAY CONTINUE TO RECEIVE AN ANNUAL STIPEND UNTIL THE RECIPIENT ENROLLS IN AN INTERNSHIP OR PRACTICUM THAT IS PART OF A COURSE OF STUDY LEADING TO A MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE.~~

~~(2) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL ANNUAL STIPENDS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, A RECIPIENT OF PROGRAM SUPPORT MUST CONTINUE TO:~~

~~(i) BE ENROLLED IN AN ASSOCIATE'S OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM;~~

~~(ii) MAKE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD A DEGREE AND MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS OF THE INSTITUTION IN WHICH THE STUDENT IS ENROLLED; AND~~

~~(iii) PARTICIPATE IN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE EDUCATION OF THE STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM.~~

~~(3) IF THE INSTITUTION THAT THE PROGRAM RECIPIENT ATTENDS HAS A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH A PUBLIC PARTNER SCHOOL OR PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING PRACTICUM UNDER § 6-120 OF THIS ARTICLE, THEN THE RECIPIENT'S EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY SHALL BE IN A CLASSROOM WITHIN THE PARTNER SCHOOL.~~

~~(4) A PROGRAM RECIPIENT IS ELIGIBLE FOR ANNUAL STIPENDS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION WHETHER OR NOT THE PROGRAM RECIPIENT IS ATTENDING THE INSTITUTION OF INITIAL ELIGIBILITY THAT THE RECIPIENT ATTENDED WHEN THE RECIPIENT WAS AWARDED AN INITIAL STIPEND UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~(5) THE OFFICE SHALL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF THE ANNUAL STIPENDS AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.~~

~~(c) (1) A~~ IN EACH SCHOOL YEAR FROM THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR THROUGH THE 2028-2029 SCHOOL YEAR, A PROGRAM RECIPIENT SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN INTERNSHIP STIPEND IF THE PROGRAM RECIPIENT:

(i) IS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN A TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE THAT, THROUGH ITS COURSE OF STUDY LEADS TO A MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE;

(ii) IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN AN INTERNSHIP OR A PRACTICUM PROVIDING DIRECT EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH STUDENTS IN A

PUBLIC SCHOOL OR PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM AS PART OF THE RECIPIENT'S COURSE OF STUDY;

(III) CONTINUES TO MAKE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD A DEGREE AND MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS OF THE INSTITUTION; AND

(IV) PLEDGES TO FULFILL A SERVICE OBLIGATION FOR 2 YEARS AS A TEACHER EMPLOYED FULL-TIME IN A HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOL, GRADE LEVEL, OR CONTENT AREA IN WHICH THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS, AS IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(2) A PROGRAM RECIPIENT WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL RECEIVE AN INTERNSHIP STIPEND OF UP TO \$20,000 FOR A 10-MONTH EDUCATOR INTERNSHIP.

(3) IF THE RECIPIENT OF AN INTERNSHIP STIPEND DOES NOT FULFILL THE SERVICE OBLIGATION, THE RECIPIENT SHALL REPAY THE COMMISSION THE FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION AS SET FORTH IN § 18-112 OF THIS TITLE.

(4) IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT PROGRAM RECIPIENTS FULFILL THE SERVICE OBLIGATION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE OFFICE A LIST OF:

(I) HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOLS IN WHICH THERE ARE A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF:

1. TEACHER VACANCIES; AND

2. TEACHERS TEACHING IN A GRADE LEVEL OR CONTENT AREA OTHER THAN THE GRADE LEVEL OR CONTENT AREA IN WHICH THEY ARE CERTIFICATED; AND

(II) GRADE LEVELS AND CONTENT AREAS IN WHICH THERE ARE A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF:

1. TEACHER VACANCIES; AND

2. TEACHERS TEACHING IN A GRADE LEVEL OR CONTENT AREA OTHER THAN THE GRADE LEVEL OR CONTENT AREA IN WHICH THEY ARE CERTIFICATED.

18-2704.

FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

18-2705.

(A) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2028, THE COMMISSION SHALL HIRE AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM IN ATTRACTING NEW TEACHERS TO THE PROFESSION.

(B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2029, THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION TO THE GOVERNOR, AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

18-2706.

(A) THERE IS A ~~GROW OUR OWN EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP~~ TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION FUND.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE ~~SCHOLARSHIPS~~ SUPPORT TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PURSUING A CAREER IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND WHO ULTIMATELY PLEDGE TO FULFILL A SERVICE OBLIGATION AS A TEACHER EMPLOYED FULL-TIME BY A COUNTY BOARD OR AN ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER IN A HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOL, GRADE LEVEL, OR CONTENT AREA IN WHICH THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS.

(C) THE ~~DEPARTMENT~~ COMMISSION SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

(D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

(E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

(1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;

(2) INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND

(3) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

(F) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM AND PROVIDE ~~SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS~~ SUPPORT TO RECIPIENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM.

(G) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.

(H) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

~~SUBTITLE 28. EDUCATOR INTERNSHIP STIPEND PROGRAM.~~

~~18-2801.~~

~~(A) IN THIS SECTION, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE EDUCATOR INTERNSHIP STIPEND PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

~~(B) (1) THERE IS AN EDUCATOR INTERNSHIP STIPEND PROGRAM.~~

~~(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE STIPENDS TO STUDENT TEACHERS WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN AN INTERNSHIP OR PRACTICUM THAT PROVIDES EXPERIENCE WORKING DIRECTLY WITH STUDENTS AS A PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO EARN CERTIFICATION.~~

~~(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.~~

~~(C) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM, AN APPLICANT SHALL:~~

~~(1) BE CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION AS A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE STUDENT PURSUING A COURSE OF STUDY OR PROGRAM IN AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE LEADING TO A MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE;~~

~~(2) COMPLETE AN INTERNSHIP OR A PRACTICUM PROVIDING DIRECT EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH STUDENTS AS PART OF THE APPLICANT'S COURSE OF STUDY OR PROGRAM LEADING TO A MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE; AND~~

~~(3) (i) BE IN THE TOP 25% OF THE APPLICANT'S GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS, CONTINUE TO MAKE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD A DEGREE, AND MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS OF THE INSTITUTION;~~

~~(ii) HAVE A 3.0 UNWEIGHTED CUMULATIVE HIGH SCHOOL GRADE POINT AVERAGE ON A 4.0 SCALE, CONTINUE TO MAKE SATISFACTORY~~

~~PROGRESS TOWARD A DEGREE, AND MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS OF THE INSTITUTION; OR~~

~~(III) CONTINUE TO MAKE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD A DEGREE, MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS OF THE INSTITUTION, AND SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE DEAN OR CHAIR OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION OR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT IN WHICH THE TEACHING CREDENTIAL PROGRAM IS HOUSED AT THE APPLICANT'S INSTITUTION.~~

~~(D) A PARTICIPANT IN THE PROGRAM MAY RECEIVE A STIPEND OF UP TO \$20,000 FOR A 10-MONTH EDUCATOR INTERNSHIP.~~

~~(E) (1) FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.~~

~~(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY PRORATE THE AMOUNT OF THE STIPEND BASED ON THE AVAILABLE FUNDS AND NUMBER OF APPLICANTS.~~

~~(F) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL HIRE AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM IN ATTRACTING NEW TEACHERS TO THE PROFESSION.~~

~~(2) THE EVALUATION SHALL EMPLOY:~~

~~(I) RANDOM ASSIGNMENT, IF FEASIBLE AND ETHICAL; OR~~

~~(II) OTHER RESEARCH METHODS THAT ALLOW FOR THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE CAUSAL INFERENCES, IF RANDOM ASSIGNMENT IS NOT FEASIBLE AND ETHICAL IN THIS INSTANCE.~~

~~(3) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION TO THE GOVERNOR, AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.~~

Article – State Finance and Procurement

6–226.

(a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General Fund of the State.

(ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply to the following funds:

170. the Cannabis Public Health Fund; [and]

171. the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund; AND

**172. ~~THE GROW OUR OWN EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP~~
TEACHER RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND.**

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Office of Student Financial Assistance within the Maryland Higher Education Commission shall consider the recipient of a Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship under Title 18, Subtitle 22 of the Education Article who is performing the service obligation under the requirements of § 18-2204 of the Education Article in effect before the effective date of this Act as compliant with the terms of the scholarship award and may not require the recipient to repay the funds received under the scholarship.

SECTION ~~2~~ ~~3~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2023. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 6 years and, at the end of June 30, 2029, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2023.