

Chapter 360

(House Bill 758)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force on Funding a Green Technology, Life Science, and Health Information Technology Loan Assistance Repayment Program

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Funding a Green Technology, Life Science, and Health Information Technology Loan Assistance Repayment Program; ~~requiring the Office of Student Financial Assistance to assist in the repayment of any federal or State higher education loan owed by a resident of the State who meets certain requirements; specifying that certain loan assistance may only be used to repay certain higher education loans; specifying the amount of assistance that may be awarded; specifying that an individual awarded assistance may only receive assistance for a certain number of years; specifying that the assistance awarded to an individual, when combined with certain other assistance, may not exceed a certain amount; requiring the Office to adopt certain regulations; requiring that funds for the Program be provided on an annual basis in the State budget; requiring the Office to submit a certain report on or before a certain date each year to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly; defining certain terms; providing for the members of the Task Force; providing for the designation of a chair of the Task Force; requiring the Governor's Workforce Investment Board to provide staff for the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation; providing that a member of the Task Force may receive reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make certain recommendations on funding a green technology, life science, and health information technology loan assistance repayment program; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on Funding a Green Technology, Life Science, and Health Information Technology Loan Assistance Repayment Program.~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article — Education
Section 18-101(e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)~~

~~BY adding to
Article — Education~~

~~Section 18-2901 through 18-2906 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 29-
Green Technology, Life Science, and Health Information Technology Loan
Assistance Repayment Program”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)~~

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

(a) There is a Task Force on Funding a Green Technology, Life Science, and Health Information Technology Loan Assistance Repayment Program.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the Secretary’s designee;

(4) one member of the Governor’s Workforce Investment Board, appointed by the Chair of the Board;

(5) one representative of community colleges in the State, appointed by the Governor;

(6) one representative of the biotechnology industry, appointed by the Governor;

(7) one representative from the Maryland Clean Energy Center appointed by the Governor;

(8) one representative from the U.S. Green Building Council: Maryland Chapter, appointed by the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Council;

(9) one representative of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO, appointed by the President of the Union; and

(10) one representative of the SEIU Maryland and District of Columbia State Council, appointed by the President of the Council.

(c) The Task Force members shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Governor’s Workforce Investment Board shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations on sources of funding for a green technology, life science, and health information technology loan assistance repayment program that assists graduates who earned a degree in a field relating to green technology, life science, or health information technology from an institution of higher education in the State in the repayment of any federal or State higher education loan.

(g) On or before December 31, 2011, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

~~Article – Education~~

~~18–101.~~

~~(e) “Office” means the Office of Student Financial Assistance.~~

~~**SUBTITLE 29. GREEN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE, AND HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM.**~~

~~18–2001.~~

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

~~(B) “GREEN TECHNOLOGY” MEANS TECHNOLOGY THAT:~~

~~(1) PROMOTES CLEAN ENERGY, RENEWABLE ENERGY, OR ENERGY EFFICIENCY;~~

~~(2) REDUCES GREENHOUSE GASES OR CARBON EMISSIONS; OR~~

~~(3) INVOLVES THE INVENTION, DESIGN, AND APPLICATION OF CHEMICAL PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES TO ELIMINATE THE USE AND GENERATION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.~~

~~(C) "HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY" MEANS THE CREATION, EXECUTION, OR IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC DATA SYSTEMS THAT RECORD OR TRANSMIT MEDICAL OR HEALTH INFORMATION.~~

~~(D) "LIFE SCIENCE" MEANS THE STUDY OF GENES, CELLS, TISSUES, AND CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL STRUCTURES OF LIVING ORGANISMS.~~

~~(E) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE GREEN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE, AND HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM.~~

~~18-2902.~~

~~(A) THERE IS A GREEN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE, AND HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM.~~

~~(B) THE OFFICE SHALL ASSIST IN THE REPAYMENT OF ANY FEDERAL OR STATE HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN OWED BY A RESIDENT OF THE STATE:~~

~~(1) (I) WHO, ON OR AFTER MAY 1, 2010, RECEIVED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IN A FIELD RELATING TO GREEN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE, OR HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FROM A SCHOOL LOCATED IN THE STATE;~~

~~(II) WHO HAS BEEN EMPLOYED IN THE STATE IN A JOB RELATING TO GREEN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE, OR HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS AFTER GRADUATION; AND~~

~~(III) WHOSE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION, AS DETERMINED BY THE FEDERAL FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID FOR THE MOST RECENT FULL ACADEMIC YEAR DOES NOT EXCEED \$35,000; OR~~

~~(2) (I) WHO GRADUATED FROM SECONDARY SCHOOL BEFORE JULY 1, 2008;~~

~~(II) WHO IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD;~~

~~(III) WHO RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE RELATING TO GREEN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE, OR HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FROM A SCHOOL LOCATED IN THE STATE;~~

~~(IV) 1. WHO IS UNEMPLOYED;~~

~~2. WHO HAS RECEIVED NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT; OR~~

~~3. WHO IS EMPLOYED WITH A GROSS ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME OF LESS THAN \$40,000; AND~~

~~(V) WHO WAS NOT ENROLLED AS A FULL TIME STUDENT AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION BEFORE JULY 1, 2010.~~

~~18-2903.~~

~~(A) ASSISTANCE RECEIVED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY ONLY BE USED TO REPAY FEDERAL OR STATE HIGHER EDUCATION LOANS.~~

~~(B) (1) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM UNDER § 18-2902(B)(1) OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE AWARDED YEARLY ASSISTANCE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,500 OR 5% OF THE AMOUNT OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S FEDERAL OR STATE EDUCATIONAL LOANS, WHICHEVER IS LESS.~~

~~(2) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES ASSISTANCE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE AWARDED ASSISTANCE:~~

~~(I) FOR NO MORE THAN 4 YEARS IF THE INDIVIDUAL RECEIVED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE; OR~~

~~(II) FOR NO MORE THAN 2 YEARS IF THE INDIVIDUAL RECEIVED AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE.~~

~~(C) THE ASSISTANCE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL IS AWARDED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, WHEN COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER STATE LOAN ASSISTANCE, MAY NOT EXCEED:~~

~~(1) \$10,000 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE; OR~~

~~(2) \$5,000 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVED AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE.~~

~~(D) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM UNDER § 18-2902(B)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE AWARDED ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE COST OF EARNING THE CERTIFICATE BUT NO MORE THAN \$250.~~

~~18-2904.~~

~~THE OFFICE SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~18-2905.~~

~~FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE PROVIDED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS IN THE STATE BUDGET.~~

~~18-2906.~~

~~ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ June 1, 2011. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of December 31, 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2011.