

Chapter 364

(House Bill 541)

AN ACT concerning

Anne Arundel County – Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Educators – Established

FOR the purpose of establishing the Anne Arundel County Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Educators to assist in the repayment of certain student loans owed by educators who meet certain eligibility requirements; authorizing the governing body of Anne Arundel County to establish the Program for educators employed by the Anne Arundel County Public School System; requiring the county to establish the amount and terms and conditions of the Program; and generally relating to the establishment of the Anne Arundel County Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Educators.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 18–4001 through 18–4005 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 40. Anne Arundel County Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Educators” Annotated Code of Maryland (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

Article – Education**SUBTITLE 40. ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR EDUCATORS.****18–4001.**

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

(B) “EDUCATOR” INCLUDES A CLASSROOM TEACHER, AN EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL, AN EDUCATION–RELATED SERVICE PROVIDER, AND A SPECIALIST ELIGIBLE FOR CERTIFICATION FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

~~(B)~~ (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, AN INSTITUTION, AN ASSOCIATION, A SOCIETY, OR A CORPORATION THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OR (4) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.

~~(e)~~ (D) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR EDUCATORS.

18-4002.

(A) IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE COUNTY MAY ESTABLISH A STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR EDUCATORS EMPLOYED BY THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ATTRACT, RECRUIT, AND RETAIN A DIVERSE CADRE OF QUALIFIED EDUCATORS IN THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT IS REFLECTIVE OF THE STUDENT POPULATION WITHIN THE COUNTY SCHOOLS.

(C) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY SHALL ASSIST IN THE REPAYMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION LOANS OWED BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

(1) RECEIVES A GRADUATE, PROFESSIONAL, OR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY;

(2) OBTAINS EMPLOYMENT AS AN EDUCATOR IN THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM;

(3) COMMITS TO SERVE IN THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN 5 YEARS;

(4) RECEIVES AN INCOME THAT IS LESS THAN THE MAXIMUM ELIGIBLE TOTAL INCOME LEVELS ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY, INCLUDING ANY ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INCOME THE INDIVIDUAL MAY EARN;

(5) IS NOT IN DEFAULT ON ANY STUDENT LOAN; AND

(6) SATISFIES ANY OTHER CRITERIA ESTABLISHED UNDER THE PROGRAM BY THE COUNTY.

(D) AN APPLICANT FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE REPAYMENT OF A COMMERCIAL LOAN SHALL DEMONSTRATE TO THE COUNTY THAT THE COMMERCIAL LOAN WAS USED FOR TUITION, EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES, OR LIVING EXPENSES FOR GRADUATE OR UNDERGRADUATE STUDY.

18-4003.

LOAN ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL BE IN THE AMOUNT AND ON THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY.

18-4004.

THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

18-4005.

(A) FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS IN THE COUNTY BUDGET IN AN APPROPRIATION SEPARATE FROM THE COUNTY'S APPROPRIATION TO THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

(B) FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM MAY BE USED TO COVER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE PROGRAM.

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

Approved by the Governor, April 25, 2024.