

SENATE BILL 377

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4lr1806
CF HB 75

By: **Senator King**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Teacher Development and Retention Program – Definition**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “institution of initial eligibility” to include
4 community colleges as eligible institutions as part of the criteria for applicants for
5 the Teacher Development and Retention Program; and generally relating to the
6 Teacher Development and Retention Program.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Education

9 Section 18–2701

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

13 Article – Education

14 Section 18–2702(a) through (c)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Education**

20 18–2701.

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

22 (b) “Eligible individual” means an individual who is:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) Enrolled in the first or second year at an institution of initial eligibility;
2 and

3 (2) Interested in pursuing a career in the teaching profession.

4 (c) "Fund" means the Teacher Development and Retention Fund established
5 under this subtitle.

6 (d) "Institution of initial eligibility" means [an]:

7 (1) AN institution of higher education in the State where at least 40% of
8 the attendees receive federal Pell Grants; OR

9 (2) A COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 16 OF THIS
10 ARTICLE.

11 (e) "Program" means the Teacher Development and Retention Program
12 established under this subtitle.

13 18–2702.

14 (a) (1) There is a Teacher Development and Retention Program.

15 (2) The Teacher Development and Retention Program is a pilot program
16 designed to incentivize a cohort of students to pursue a career in the teaching profession.

17 (b) (1) The purpose of the Program is to provide support to eligible individuals
18 who ultimately pledge to fulfill a service obligation as a teacher employed full-time in a
19 high-needs school, grade level, or content area in the State in which there is a shortage of
20 teachers, as identified by the Department.

21 (2) The Program shall provide financial support to eligible individuals
22 interested in pursuing a career in the teaching profession, beginning by offering eligible
23 individuals a one-time stipend for participation in an experiential learning opportunity in
24 a classroom and concluding by placing those individuals in high-needs schools, grade
25 levels, or content areas.

26 (c) The Office shall establish eligibility criteria for the Program, including
27 requirements for an applicant to:

28 (1) Be enrolled in the first or second year at an institution of initial
29 eligibility in an associate's or a bachelor's degree program; and

30 (2) Before receiving an educator internship stipend under § 18–2703 of this
31 subtitle, pledge to fulfill a service obligation as a teacher employed full-time in a

1 high-needs school, grade level, or content area in which there is a shortage of teachers, as
2 identified by the Department, for a minimum of 2 years.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
4 1, 2024.