

Introduced _____
Public Hearing _____
Council Action _____
Executive Action _____
Effective Date _____

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2023 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 5

Bill No. 14 -2023

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT establishing a Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Teachers; defining certain terms; setting forth certain eligibility requirements; providing that the program will be administered by the Howard County Public School System; providing for the method of appropriation and providing that the program may be subject to annual appropriation; providing for a limit to the fiscal obligation of the program; requiring certain applications; providing for the application of this Act; requiring a report; providing for a sunset of the Program after five years; and generally relating to the Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Teachers.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2023. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2023.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on _____, 2023 and Passed ____, Passed with amendments _____, Failed _____.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this ___ day of _____, 2023 at ___ a.m./p.m.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive _____, 2023

Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 *Section 1. Be It Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the*
2 *Howard County Code is amended as follows:*

3 *By adding:*

4 *Title 20. Taxes, charges and fees.*

5 *Subtitle 15. Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Teachers.*

6

7

Title 20. Taxes, charges and fees.

8

SUBTITLE 15. STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS.

9

10 **SECTION 20.1500. HOWARD COUNTY STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT**
11 **PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS ESTABLISHED; SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION; PURPOSE;**
12 **APPLICABILITY.**

13 (A) *ESTABLISHED.* AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 18-3401 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE OF
14 THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, THERE IS A HOWARD COUNTY STUDENT LOAN
15 ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM (THE “PROGRAM”).

16 (B) *SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION.* THE PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION.

17 (C) *PURPOSE.* THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ATTRACT, RECRUIT, AND RETAIN A
18 DIVERSE CADRE OF QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN THE HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL
19 SYSTEM THAT IS REFLECTIVE OF THE STUDENT POPULATION WITHIN THE COUNTY SCHOOLS.

20 (D) *APPLICABILITY.* SUBJECT TO ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SET OUT IN SECTION 20.1502
21 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE PROGRAM SHALL APPLY TO TEACHERS EMPLOYED BY THE HOWARD
22 COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

23

24 **SECTION 20.1501. DEFINITIONS.**

25 IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:

26 (A) *DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE* SHALL MEAN THE HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
27 FINANCE.

28 (B) *SCHOOL SYSTEM* SHALL MEAN THE HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

29 (C) *HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN* SHALL HAVE THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 18-
30 3401(B) OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

31

1 **SECTION 20.1502. ELIGIBILITY; COMMERCIAL LOANS.**

2 (A) *GENERALLY.* SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY SHALL ASSIST
3 IN THE REPAYMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION LOANS OWED BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

- 4 (1) RECEIVES A GRADUATE, PROFESSIONAL, OR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM AN
5 ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY;
- 6 (2) OBTAINS EMPLOYMENT AS A FULL-TIME TEACHER IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM;
- 7 (3) COMMITS TO TEACH IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN 5
8 YEARS OR HAS COMPLETED 5 YEARS OF TEACHING SERVICE AND CONTINUES TO
9 SERVE IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM;
- 10 (4) IS NOT IN DEFAULT ON ANY STUDENT LOAN; AND
- 11 (5) SATISFIES ANY OTHER CRITERIA ESTABLISHED UNDER THE PROGRAM BY THE
12 COUNTY.

13 (B) *PROVISIONS SPECIFIC TO COMMERCIAL LOANS.* AN APPLICANT FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE
14 REPAYMENT OF A COMMERCIAL LOAN SHALL DEMONSTRATE TO THE COUNTY THAT THE
15 COMMERCIAL LOAN WAS USED FOR TUITION, EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES, OR LIVING EXPENSES
16 FOR GRADUATE OR UNDERGRADUATE STUDY.

17
18 **SECTION 20.1503. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.**

19 THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH
20 THE PROVISIONS SET FORTH BY THE COUNTY.

21
22 **SECTION 20.1504. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS; USE OF FUNDS.**

23 (A) *METHOD OF APPROPRIATION.* FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED ON AN
24 ANNUAL BASIS IN THE COUNTY BUDGET IN AN APPROPRIATION SEPARATE FROM THE
25 COUNTY'S APPROPRIATION TO THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD
26 OF EDUCATION.

27 (B) *ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.* FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM MAY BE USED TO COVER
28 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE PROGRAM, NOT TO EXCEED 25% OF THE AMOUNT
29 APPROPRIATED TO FUND THE PROGRAM.

1 **SECTION 20.1505. ANNUAL LIMIT.**

2 (A) *LIMIT.* DURING A FISCAL YEAR, THE AVAILABILITY AND APPROPRIATED AMOUNT OF
3 THIS PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET APPROVAL. THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE
4 OF THIS PROGRAM, INCLUDING ALL LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED UNDER THE
5 PROGRAM AND RELEVANT ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, SHALL NOT EXCEED \$300,000 DURING
6 A FISCAL YEAR.

7 (B) THE SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL DETERMINE A METHOD TO GRANT APPLICATIONS.
8

9 **SECTION 20.1506. APPLICATION.**

10 (A) *APPLICATION.* TO RECEIVE THE LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE, A TEACHER SHALL
11 SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE SCHOOL SYSTEM:

- 12 (1) IN THE FORMAT THAT THE SCHOOL SYSTEM REQUIRES;
 - 13 (2) THAT INCLUDES THE DOCUMENTATION THAT THE SCHOOL SYSTEM REQUIRES; AND
 - 14 (3) ON OR BEFORE THE DATE THAT THE SCHOOL SYSTEM SETS.
- 15

16 **SECTION 20.1507. REPORT.**

17 (A) *REPORT TO DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.* SUBJECT TO SECTION 22.1000 OF THE COUNTY
18 CODE, THE SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
19 CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM UNDER THIS SUBTITLE WHICH
20 SHALL:

- 21 (1) BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER FIRST OF EACH YEAR;
- 22 (2) INCLUDE, FOR EACH RECIPIENT OF ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE DURING
23 THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR:
 - 24 (i) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE RECEIVING ASSISTANCE;
 - 25 (ii) THE AMOUNT OF THE ASSISTANCE GRANTED; AND
 - 26 (iii) INCLUDE AN EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM AND ANY RECOMMENDED
27 CHANGES.

28 (B) *REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE.* SUBJECT TO SECTION 22.1000 OF
29 THE COUNTY CODE, NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER FIRST OF EACH YEAR THE DEPARTMENT OF
30 FINANCE SHALL REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL

1 CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM UNDER THIS SUBTITLE AND SHALL
2 INCLUDE:

3 (1) THE DATA RECEIVED FROM THE SCHOOL SYSTEM PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (A) OF
4 THIS SECTION; AND

5 (2) AN EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM AND ANY RECOMMENDED CHANGES.
6

7 ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County,
8 Maryland, that, if funded, Loan Repayment Assistance under this Act shall begin Fiscal
9 Year 2024.

10

11 ***Section 3. And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County,
12 Maryland that the Howard County Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program
13 established by this Act shall remain effective through Fiscal Year 2029 and, at the end of
14 Fiscal Year 2029, with no further action required by the County Council, this Act shall be
15 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

16

17 ***Section 4. And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County,
18 Maryland, that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.