

**CHAPTER 422**

**(House Bill 1235)**

AN ACT concerning

**Higher Education - Scholarships - Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists**

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Office of Student Financial Assistance within the Maryland Higher Education Commission to award certain grants to certain persons who provide speech language pathology or audiology services; requiring certain recipients of certain grants to meet certain qualifications; requiring certain recipients of certain grants to sign a certain letter; providing that certain grants provided to certain recipients may not be used for certain purposes; providing that a certain amount of tuition assistance shall be equal to a certain calculation; providing for the renewal of certain grants under certain circumstances~~ authorizing an area of critical shortage to include speech language pathology or audiology services under the Sharon Christa McAuliffe Memorial Teacher Education Award program in the Maryland Higher Education Commission; defining certain terms; correcting a certain reference; and generally relating to the provision of grants for speech language pathology and audiology services.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Education

Section 18-703(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

**Article - Education**

18-703.

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

(2) "Area of critical shortage" means an academic field OR EDUCATIONAL SERVICE identified by the State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of subsection ~~(H)~~ (G) of this section as having projected employment vacancies which substantially exceed projected qualified graduates.

(3) "Area of geographic shortage" means a geographic area of the State identified by the State Board of Education as less able than others in the State to satisfy the need for public school teachers in an academic field identified for at least 3 years as an area of critical shortage.

(4) "Degreed recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance grant under this section who possesses an undergraduate or graduate degree.