

~~(2) A degree recipient and a teacher recipient may renew an award for 1 year if that recipient maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.~~

~~(h) (1) [Funds] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, FUNDS for the SHARON CHRISTA MCAULIFFE MEMORIAL Teacher Education Tuition Assistance Program shall be as provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the Governor.~~

~~(2) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2007 THROUGH 2009, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION FOR THE SHARON CHRISTA MCAULIFFE MEMORIAL TEACHER EDUCATION TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE SUM OF:~~

~~(I) THE APPROPRIATION INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET SUBMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006; AND~~

~~(II) \$500,000.~~

18-706.

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

(1) "Eligible organization" means an institution, including a licensed hospital, nursing home, adult day care center, public health agency, home health agency, or other organization authorized by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene.

(2) "Eligible institution" means an institution of postsecondary education:

(i) 1. Approved to operate by the Maryland Higher Education Commission; and OR

2. RECOGNIZED BY THE COMMISSION AS A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED INSTITUTION OFFERING AN EQUIVALENT AND NATIONALLY ACCREDITED OUT-OF-STATE NURSING PROGRAM; AND

(ii) That awards nursing degrees or diplomas.

(3) "Nursing shortage area" means a recognized area of nursing service or specialization determined by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to be an area where there exists a shortage of qualified nurses in eligible organizations.

(4) "Nursing student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary nursing education degree or diploma program at an eligible institution.

(5) "Service obligation" means employment as:

(I) [a] A nurse in a nursing shortage area in an eligible organization; OR

(II) A FACULTY MEMBER IN A NURSING PROGRAM AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.