

18-1602.

(a) There is a program of loan assistance repayment in the State.

(b) [The] SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE State Scholarship Administration shall assist in the repayment of the amount of any higher education loan owed by an individual who:

- (1) Receives a graduate, professional, or undergraduate degree from:
 - (i) A college or university in the State of Maryland; or
 - (ii) A school of medicine;
- (2) Obtains eligible employment;
- (3) Receives an income that is less than the maximum eligible total income levels established by the Administration, including any additional sources of income; and
- (4) Satisfies any other criteria established by the Administration.

(C) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ASSIST IN THE REPAYMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF ANY HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN OWED BY A PHYSICIAN WHO ENGAGES IN PRIMARY CARE IN THE STATE OR BY A MEDICAL RESIDENT SPECIALIZING IN PRIMARY CARE WHO AGREES TO PRACTICE FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS AS A PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN IN A GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE STATE THAT HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE AS BEING MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED WITH THE FUNDS TRANSFERRED TO THE ADMINISTRATION FROM THE PHYSICIAN QUALITY ASSURANCE FUND UNDER § 14-207(C)(2)(I) OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE OF THE CODE.

(2) A PHYSICIAN WHO ENGAGES IN PRIMARY CARE IS NOT PRECLUDED FROM RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

(3) ANY UNSPENT PORTIONS OF THE MONEY THAT IS TRANSFERRED TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR USE UNDER THIS SECTION FROM THE PHYSICIAN QUALITY ASSURANCE FUND MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO OR REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE, BUT SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND TO ASSIST PHYSICIANS ENGAGED IN PRIMARY CARE AS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

[(c)](D) An applicant for assistance in the repayment of a commercial loan shall demonstrate to the Administration that the commercial loan was used for tuition, educational expenses, or living expenses for graduate or undergraduate study.

[(d)](E) Assistance in the repayment of a loan from an entity set forth in § 18-1601 (c) (2) of this subtitle shall require the approval of the Administration.