

SENATE BILL 456

F2, J2, J5

5lr3126
CF HB 265

By: **Senator McKay**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment and Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Dental Services – Qualification for Maryland Dent–Care Program and Study on**
3 **Use of Dental Online Credentialing**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility criteria for Higher Education Loan Assistance
5 Grants under the Maryland Dent–Care Program; requiring the Maryland Insurance
6 Administration to submit a report to certain committees of the General Assembly on
7 the use of online credentialing systems by dental insurance carriers; and generally
8 relating to dental services.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 18–101(a) and (c)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Education
16 Section 18–2404, 18–2405, and 18–2406
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Education**

22 18–101.

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

24 (c) “Office” means the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 18-2404.

2 Each applicant for a Higher Education Loan Assistance Grant under this subtitle
3 shall:

4 (1) Be licensed to practice in Maryland by the State Board of Dental
5 Examiners;

6 (2) Demonstrate financial need;

7 (3) Be employed full time **OR PART TIME** as a dentist or dental hygienist;

8 (4) Agree that at least 30% of the patients treated by the dentist or in the
9 practice in which the dental hygienist works each year for a 3-year period in a private
10 practice or clinical setting will be Maryland Medical Assistance Program recipients; and

11 (5) Meet any other criteria established by the Office.

12 18-2405.

13 (a) The Office, on notification by the Maryland Department of Health, may award
14 Higher Education Loan Assistance Grants.

15 (b) The Office, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health, shall
16 adopt regulations to determine:

17 (1) The maximum number of participants in the Program each year;

18 (2) The maximum number of total participants in the Program; and

19 (3) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, the minimum and maximum
20 amount of a Higher Education Loan Assistance Grant awarded under this subtitle.

21 (c) (1) On or after October 1, 2023, the amount of a Higher Education Loan
22 Assistance Grant awarded under subsection (a) of this section:

23 (i) Shall be at least \$50,000 per year for 3 years for a dentist; and

24 (ii) May not exceed \$10,000 per year for 2 years for a dental
25 hygienist.

26 (2) The Office, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health,
27 shall periodically evaluate the minimum and maximum grant amounts determined under
28 subsection (b)(3) of this section.

29 **(3) THE OFFICE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MARYLAND**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SHALL ESTABLISH PRORATED HIGHER EDUCATION
LOAN ASSISTANCE GRANT AMOUNTS FOR PART-TIME DENTISTS AND PART-TIME
DENTAL HYGIENISTS.**

18-2406.

Each recipient of a Higher Education Loan Assistance Grant under this subtitle may hold the grant for up to 3 years if the recipient:

(1) Continues to be employed full time **OR PART TIME** as a dentist or dental hygienist; and

(2) Continues to treat Maryland Medical Assistance Program recipients as at least 30% of all patients treated:

(i) By the dentist in a private practice or clinical setting authorized under the Program; or

(ii) In the private practice or clinical setting in which the dental hygienist works.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1, 2025, the Maryland Insurance Administration shall:

(1) study whether dental insurance carriers are using an online credentialing system, as defined in § 15-112 of the Insurance Article, to process uniform credentialing forms; and

(2) report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, including any recommendations to expand utilization of an online credentialing system to process uniform credentialing forms among dental insurance carriers.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.