

M A R Y L A N D  
GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

**House Bill 758**  
**Task Force on Funding Green Technology, Life Science, and Health Information**  
**Technology Loan Assistance Repayment Program**  
**June 20, 2012**

**Coordinators**

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**Committee Chair**

Pamela Paulk

**Committee Members**

A list of members is on the back page.

**Background**

During the Legislative session of 2011, Delegate Keiffer Mitchell introduced legislation (H.B. 758) charging the Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB) with convening a task force to research and make recommendation on sources of funding for Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP) for individuals pursuing careers in green technology, life sciences, and health information technology. The LARP would assist graduates who have earned a degree in a field relating to green technology, life science or health information technology from an institution of higher education in the State in repayment of any federal or state higher education loan.

H.B. 758 required that the task force be comprised of the following members:

- A member of the Maryland Senate
- A member of the Maryland House of Delegates
- The Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, or his designee
- A member of the GWIB
- A representative of community colleges in the State
- A representative of the biotechnology industry
- A representative of the Maryland Clean Energy Center
- A representative of the Maryland State & District of Columbia AFL-CIO
- A representative of the SEIU Maryland and District of Columbia State Council

The Task Force convened on May 22, 2012, at the Governors Workforce Investment Board. The purpose of the meeting was to review the draft report that was prepared and distributed prior to the meeting, as well as to develop a set of recommendations around the feasibility on sources of funding for a green technology, life sciences, and health information technology loan assistance repayment program.

Delegate Keiffer Mitchell provided opening remarks and his thoughts related to sponsorship of H.B. 758. Additionally, the purpose and charge of the legislation was provided; and Task Force members were also given an overview of the draft report including the history of LARPs in Maryland and the 19 other states that administer LARPs.

Discussion by the Task Force was wide-ranging, covering the LARPs now available and their usefulness to eligible students. One strong point made by the group was that LARPs used as incentives to move students into the needed fields of green technology, life sciences and health information need to be introduced to them at the end of their second year or beginning of their third year of educational pursuit. With this timing, students can take the LARP into account when searching for their first post-graduate position.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Task Force proposes the following recommendations regarding sources of funding for a green technology, life sciences, and health information technology loan assistance repayment program:

- **State Appropriation**  
In this current economic environment, the Task Force recognizes that State resources are stretched. Ideally, the Task Force would recommend a full state appropriation to support this effort, but the public-private partnerships seen in other LARPs are more likely to succeed.
- **Private Funding**  
As seen in many states, funding from private sources is available. These include: Licensure fees – payments made by licensed workers (physicians, nurses) to boards or commissions are a source of funding for some LARPs and could be considered for others (contractors, realtors, etc.)
- **Employer Tax Credits**  
Similar to those used to incentivize employers who hire unemployed workers, legislation could be introduced to allow credits for employers hiring new employees and establishing a LARP for those employees.
- **Builders' Fees**  
Similar to licensure fees, a small amount of these funds could be used to fund LARPs for green jobs.
- **Foundations**  
Many states have funded healthcare LARPs with foundation funding, and this could be explored;
- **Private Association**  
Similar to the Kentucky Pork Producers supporting a LARP for veterinarians, other associations could be asked to contribute to LARPs;

- **Employer Match**  
Similar to LARPs supporting healthcare workers, employers eager to hire well-trained graduates could match funding provided by the State;
- **Bonds**  
Raising funding through the sale of bonds was discussed, but the means of paying off the bonds was not determined.

The Task Force has completed its charge, but believes that this work is important enough in nature to warrant continued deliberation. To that end, the members have agreed to reconvene as a workgroup over the next several months to further explore implementation of the one or more of the above recommendations.

**Task Force Members**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Senator Katherine Klausmeier</li> <li>▪ Delegate Keiffer Mitchell</li> <li>▪ Scott R. Jensen</li> <li>▪ Dea Thomas</li> <li>▪ Jerome T. Countee, Jr.</li> <li>▪ Terry Daly</li> <li>▪ Fred Mason, Jr.</li> <li>▪ Pamela Paulk</li> <li>▪ Renee Winsky</li> <li>▪ Maura Sappington</li> <li>▪ Dawn Costigan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State of Maryland</li> <li>State of Maryland</li> <li>Interim Secretary, Department of Labor, Licensing And Regulation</li> <li>Training and Upgrading, Fund SEIU Maryland and District of Columbia State Council</li> <li>Workforce Development, Prince George’s Community College</li> <li>Maryland Clean Energy Center</li> <li>President, Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO</li> <li>Vice President, Johns Hopkins Medical System</li> <li>President, Bay One Group, LLC</li> <li>Program Manager, Office of Student Financial Aid, Maryland Higher Education Commission</li> <li>Program Administrator, Office of Student Financial Aid, Maryland Higher Education Commission</li> </ul> |
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