

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
September 19, 2012

Coordinator

Mary O'Connor, Project Manager
Email: moconnor@gwib.state.md.us
Phone: 410.767.8604

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) to aid 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 deliberated on several options for funding LARPs as incentives to encourage students to enter the green technology, life sciences and health information technology fields, including employer tax credits (similar to those used to incentivize employers who hire unemployed workers) builders' fees, and bonds. However, given the current economic environment which does not lend itself to a full State appropriation, the Task Force recommends a hybrid approach to funding LARPs, blending some State funding with private partnerships seen in other state LARPs. This private funding would include:

- **Foundations**
Many states have funded healthcare LARPs with foundation funding, either non-profit foundations or the foundations side of major insurers;
- **Private Association**
Similar to the funding of physician LARPs by the Board of Physicians; and
- **Employer Match**
Just as hospitals and local governments support healthcare workers, employers eager to hire well-trained graduates could match funding by the State.

Task Force Members

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| ▪ Senator Katherine Klausmeier | State of Maryland |
| ▪ Delegate Keiffer Mitchell | State of Maryland |
| ▪ Scott R. Jensen | Interim Secretary, Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation |
| ▪ Dea Thomas | Training and Upgrading, Fund SEIU Maryland and District of Columbia State Council |
| ▪ Jerome T. Countee, Jr. | Workforce Development, Prince George's Community College |
| ▪ Terry Daly | Maryland Clean Energy Center |
| ▪ Fred Mason, Jr. | President, Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO |
| ▪ Pamela Paulk | Vice President, Johns Hopkins Medical System |
| ▪ Renee Winsky | President, Bay One Group, LLC |
| ▪ Maura Sappington
Costigan | Program Manager, Maryland Higher Education Commission Dawn
Program Administrator, Maryland Higher Education Commission |