

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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SB 0091 / HB0011: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ADULT LEARNING - LEASING TRAINING PROGRAM - ESTABLISHMENT

Sponsor(s): Senator McCray

Summary:

This bill seeks to establish the Leasing Training Program in the Maryland Department of Labor to train, prepare, and connect job seekers with careers in the residential rental housing industry. The Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning will administer the Program and award grants to certain designated partnerships.

Why does it matter?

This bill creates an accessible career pathway to Marylanders seeking job training. Connecting qualified job seekers with industries that need them stimulates economic growth and strength in our communities.

Bill Status

This bill is scheduled for a hearing on 03/19/2024 in the House. It has passed the Senate.

SB 0637 / HB0473 : HIGHER EDUCATION - UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS - OUT-OF-STATE TUITION EXEMPTION ELIGIBILITY

Sponsor(s): Senators Brooks and Hettleman
Delegates Pasteur, Taveras, Addison, Allen, Ebersole,
Fair, Jackson, Phillips, Ruth, Simmons, Simpson, and
Taylor

Summary:

This bill changes, from 3 years to 1 year, the number of years an individual or the individual's parent or guardian must file taxes before the academic year for eligibility to receive an out-of-state tuition exemption.

Why does it matter?

This bill creates equity in higher education for immigrant families who live in and contribute to our state, and deserve the same educational opportunities as all other Maryland students. By allowing students to be eligible for in-state tuition after providing 1 year of Maryland tax returns instead of 3, more people will be able to advance their education, careers, and economic status.

Bill Status

This bill has passed the House and has been referred to the Education, Energy, and the Environment committee in the Senate.

HBO033 : ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - ENTREPRENEURIAL LEAVE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Sponsor(s): Delegate J. Lewis

Summary:

This bill establishes the Entrepreneurial Leave Tax Credit Program in the Department of Commerce to encourage employers to implement certain entrepreneurial leave policies and participate in the Program; allowing a credit 6 against the State income tax for certain employers who permit certain employees to take a certain period of entrepreneurial leave

Why does it matter?

This bill provides an incentive, and alleviates any financial burden, for employers to provide unpaid leave for employees engaging in activities related to starting their own business, which will make this type of leave much more accessible to employees. The program seeks to promote the expansion and creation of local business, and give employees more opportunities to pursue entrepreneurship while maintaining job security.

Bill Status

This bill is scheduled for a hearing on 02/01/2024 in the Ways and Means Committee.

SB0084 / HB0116 : TEACHER DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

**Sponsor(s): Delegate Kerr
Senator Rosapepe**

Summary:

This bill establishes the Teacher Apprenticeship Startup Grant Program in the Department of Labor to provide high school and college students, and career changers opportunities to begin a career in education. It establishes apprenticeships that develop career paths and pay apprentices certain compensation. The Department of Labor will be authorized to award up to \$500,000 to develop and launch this program.

Why does it matter?

Apprenticeships are a pathway to stable careers for many of our community members, while also meeting the needs of important fields like education. An apprenticeship program lowers the financial barrier to entry for career changers, college students, and high schoolers.

Teacher apprenticeship programs exist in 12 states, and result in an increase of qualified K-12 educators who can fill the need across our school systems.

Bill Status:

This bill passed the Senate and is scheduled for a hearing on 3/27/24 in the House.

HB 0380 / SB0374 : STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD - LICENSES AND CERTIFICATES - APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Sponsor(s): Delegates Solomon, Fraser-Hidalgo,
Kaufman, Pena-Melnyk, and Shetty
Senator Waldstreicher

Summary:

This bill prohibits the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board from requiring an applicant to provide proof that the applicant is lawfully present in the United States or have a Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number as a condition for licensure or certification.

Why does it matter?

This bill lowers the barriers for qualified immigrants without permanent status who are able to fill essential roles in the healthcare field. Strengthening the healthcare workforce in our state benefits us all. It provides a pathway for a better quality of life for those providing care and those receiving it.

Bill Status:

Passed the Senate on 2/29/24. This bill has a hearing scheduled on 3/19/24 in the House.

SB395 / HB569 : CREDIT FOR ALL LANGUAGE LEARNING ACT 2024

**SPONSOR: DELEGATE JARED SOLOMON AND SENATOR
MALCOLM AUGUSTINE.**

Summary:

This bill requires a public community college to consider a course or program for English as a second language or English language learner as eligible for world language or humanities credit toward an associate's degree under certain circumstances; requires that certain world language credits earned by students who transfer from community colleges to institutions of higher education be transferable; and prohibiting institutions of higher education from denying the transfer of certain world language or humanities credits for any reason.

Why Does it Matter:

We know that education can be a pathway to equity, and this bill exemplifies that ideal. Students who immigrate or are learning English as a second language for any reason deserve credit for that learning, the same as any other student taking a world language course. This bill will help to level the playing field in higher education.

Bill Status:

Passed in the House on 2/29/24. This bill has been referred to the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee in the Senate.

HB0728 / SB0705 : ACCESS TO CARE ACT

SPONSORS: DELEGATES CULLISON, ACEVERO, BOAFO, BOYCE, CHARKOUDIAN, EMBRY, FAIR, FENNELL, FRASER-HIDALGO, GUZZONE, HARRIS, HEALEY, KAISER, KERR, LEHMAN, R. LEWIS, J. LONG, LOPEZ, LOVE, MARTINEZ, MCCASKILL, MIREKU-NORTH, PALAKOVICH CARR, PATTERSON, QUEEN, RUTH, SIMPSON, SOLOMON, SPIEGEL, STEIN, TAVERAS, TERRASA, TURNER, WHITE HOLLAND, WILLIAMS, ZIEGLER, ALSTON, BAGNALL, BHANDARI, HILL, S. JOHNSON, PENNA-MELNYK, ROSENBERG

Summary:

This bill requires the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to establish and implement the Qualified Resident Enrollment Program to facilitate the enrollment of qualified residents in qualified plans; it provides that the operation and administration of the Program may include functions delegated by the Exchange to a third party.

Why Does it Matter:

Under this new policy, all Marylanders would be able to purchase health insurance through the state marketplace regardless of immigration status. Making sure that our communities stay healthy and safe means that all of us, including the most vulnerable, must have access to the care they need. This bill takes an important step in bridging the gap in care for many of our neighbors, and follows in the footsteps of other states that have successfully implemented similar bills.

Bill Status:

Passed in the House on 2/23/24. This bill has been referred to the Finance Committee in the Senate.