



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Committee Bill No. 5007**

LCO No. 5522



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:  
(CE)

**AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDENT LOAN REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES IN HIGH-DEMAND FIELDS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Economic  
2 and Community Development shall study the feasibility of  
3 establishing a student loan reimbursement program, as described in  
4 subsection (b) of this section, that is administered by the Department  
5 of Economic and Community Development through public-private  
6 partnerships for private sector employees who (1) work in certain  
7 high-demand fields, including, but not limited to, civil engineering,  
8 mechanical engineering, plastics engineering, nursing, dermatology,  
9 construction management and actuarial science, and (2) commit to  
10 maintaining employment in such high-demand field and residence in  
11 the state for not less than five years.

12 (b) Any student loan reimbursement program considered by the  
13 commissioner pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall have the  
14 following attributes: (1) Private employers participating in such  
15 program shall, upon hiring an eligible employee, contribute a

16 percentage of said employee's outstanding student loan balance to a  
17 bank account bearing not less than one and one-half per cent interest;  
18 (2) the bank account shall be managed by a private bank that will  
19 reimburse a participating employee's student loan payments over the  
20 course of five years; (3) the private bank shall charge a fee for its  
21 management services; (4) the state shall contribute a percentage of a  
22 participating employee's state income taxes to the bank account over  
23 the course of five years; and (5) if a participating employee ceases to  
24 reside in the state, said employee shall repay a portion of the student  
25 loan reimbursements received from the program.

26 (c) Not later than February 1, 2020, the commissioner shall submit a  
27 report on the commissioner's findings and recommendations to the  
28 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance  
29 of matters relating to commerce, in accordance with the provisions of  
30 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To examine the creation of a student loan reimbursement program through public-private partnerships to attract skilled labor to the state and meet the hiring needs of private sector employers in the state.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. WOOD, 29th Dist.; REP. DOUCETTE, 13th Dist.  
REP. ELLIOTT, 88th Dist.; REP. GILCHREST, 18th Dist.  
SEN. BERGSTEIN, 36th Dist.; REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.  
REP. MUSHINSKY, 85th Dist.

H.B. 5007