

(i) (3) The public employer and a public employee organization shall not interfere with, intimidate, restrain, coerce, or discriminate against public employees because of the exercise of their rights under [subsection] PARAGRAPHS (1) and (2) [hereof] OF THIS SUBSECTION.

18-1015.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Displaced homemaker" means an individual who:

(i) Has worked for the family in the family home;

(ii) Is not gainfully employed or is employed and receives an annual income that falls below the poverty level established by the United States government;

(iii) Has had, or would have, difficulty finding employment that would enable the individual to become self-sufficient; and

(iv) 1. Has depended on the income of a family member and has lost that income as the result of separation, divorce, or the death or disability of that family member;

2. Has depended on government assistance [as] AND is the parent of dependent children and is no longer eligible for such assistance; or

3. Is receiving government assistance and is attempting to become self-sufficient.

(3) "Program" means the Displaced Homemakers Program administered by the Maryland Higher Education Loan Authority.

(e) A participating lending institution shall:

(1) Pay the funds borrowed by a displaced homemaker under the Program to cover the displaced homemaker's tuition and fees at a postsecondary institution in the State directly to the institution; and

(2) Pay any funds borrowed by a displaced homemaker under the Program that remain after funds are paid under paragraph [(5)] (1) of this subsection to the displaced homemaker.

18-1401.

(d) "Area of ["]critical shortage" means those fields identified by the State Board of Education pursuant to the provisions of [§ 18-405] § 18-1405 of this subtitle as having