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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** **HB 998**  
**DATE** 4/10/02  
**CC:** FILE

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## **HB 998**

HB 998 amends current law to reduce the minimum period of time from 4 years to 2 years that a health care professional must render service in a state health institution in exchange for paid educational leave. HB 998 also authorizes state health institutions to contract with collection agencies and banks for the collection of any balance due the state from any program recipient and authorizes the revocation of a program recipient's professional license if the recipient does not fulfill his/her time of service.

HB 998 also codifies a new section to establish a paid educational leave (either part-time or full-time) program, within the limits of funds available, for MDOT employees to pursue an undergraduate or graduate degree in civil engineering in exchange for continued employment as MDOT professional engineers. The recipient must agree to work at MDOT for a period of time equivalent to the amount of time for which he/she received paid educational leave, but in no event less than 2 years. HB 998 also provides for liquidated damages (\$5,000) and license suppression in the event of default by an engineering applicant for his/her compensated educational leave.

HB 998 is effective July 1, 2002.

I recommend that you sign HB 998.