

HOUSE BILL 699

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71r1175

By: **Delegates Burns, Aumann, Bartlett, Bronrott, Cane, Cardin, Frank, Haynes, Holmes, Howard, Hubbard, Levy, Minnick, Morhaim, Myers, O'Donnell, Proctor, Simmons, Taylor, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2007

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Senior Citizen Tuition Waiver Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Senior Citizen Tuition Waiver Program; requiring
4 an individual to meet certain eligibility criteria to qualify for the Program;
5 requiring public senior higher education institutions to waive the tuition of
6 certain individuals who qualify for the Program; authorizing public senior
7 higher education institutions to waive the fees of certain individuals who
8 qualify for the Program; requiring public senior higher education institutions to
9 determine whether an individual is eligible for the Program and whether the
10 institution can accommodate the individual in certain courses; prohibiting an
11 individual participating in the Program from registering for more than a certain
12 number of courses per semester; defining certain terms; requiring certain
13 persons to report to the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the
14 General Assembly on or before certain dates; and generally relating to the
15 establishment of the Senior Citizen Tuition Waiver Program.

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Education
18 Section 15–106.6
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2006 Replacement Volume)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Education**

4 **15-106.6.**

5 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
6 MEANINGS INDICATED.

7 (2) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE SENIOR CITIZEN TUITION WAIVER
8 PROGRAM.

9 (3) “SENIOR CITIZEN” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AT LEAST
10 62 YEARS OLD.

11 (B) THERE IS A SENIOR CITIZEN TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM.

12 (C) AN INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SENIOR
13 CITIZEN TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

14 (1) IS A SENIOR CITIZEN;

15 (2) IS A RESIDENT OF MARYLAND; AND

16 (3) HAS AN INDIVIDUAL INCOME OF NO MORE THAN 150% OF THE
17 FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

18 (D) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, A PUBLIC SENIOR
19 HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION IN THIS STATE SHALL WAIVE THE TUITION
20 AND MAY WAIVE THE FEES OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

21 (1) MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM
22 UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION; AND

23 (2) IS ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION OR ENROLLED IN THE REGULAR
24 UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM AT THE PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION
25 INSTITUTION.

1 **(E) A PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION SHALL**
2 **DETERMINE WHETHER:**

3 **(1) AN INDIVIDUAL MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR**
4 **THE PROGRAM UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

5 **(2) THE INSTITUTION CAN ACCOMMODATE THE INDIVIDUAL IN**
6 **THE COURSE FOR WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL REGISTERS, INCLUDING A**
7 **DETERMINATION OF WHETHER:**

8 **(I) AVAILABLE CLASSROOM SPACE EXISTS; AND**

9 **(II) A MINIMUM NUMBER OF TUITION-PAYING STUDENTS**
10 **HAVE ENROLLED IN THE COURSE.**

11 **(F) AN INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM MAY REGISTER**
12 **FOR NO MORE THAN THREE COURSES PER SEMESTER.**

13 **(G) (1) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30 OF EACH YEAR, EACH PUBLIC SENIOR**
14 **HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION SHALL PROVIDE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE**
15 **COMMISSION THAT INCLUDES:**

16 **(I) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN**
17 **THE PROGRAM AT THE INSTITUTION DURING THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR; AND**

18 **(II) THE TOTAL COST TO THE INSTITUTION FOR THE**
19 **PROGRAM DURING THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR.**

20 **(2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 OF EACH YEAR, THE**
21 **COMMISSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**
22 **ARTICLE, SHALL PROVIDE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON**
23 **THE IMPLEMENTATION AND COST OF THE PROGRAM.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2007.