

SENATE BILL 292

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2lr0448

By: **Senators Garagiola, Astle, Benson, Brinkley, Colburn, DeGrange, Dyson, Ferguson, Forehand, Frosh, Glassman, Jacobs, Jennings, Kasemeyer, King, Kittleman, Klausmeier, Madaleno, Manno, Mathias, Middleton, Miller, Muse, Peters, Pipkin, Pugh, Ramirez, Raskin, Robey, Rosapepe, Simonaire, Stone, Young, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 22, 2012

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship –**
3 **Extension**

4 FOR the purpose of extending the date by which the Office of Student Financial
5 Assistance may award an initial Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts
6 Scholarship; extending the date by which the Office may renew a Veterans of
7 the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship under certain circumstances;
8 and generally relating to the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts
9 Scholarship.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 18–604
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 18-604.

2 (a) For purposes of this section, an individual served in the Afghanistan or
3 Iraq conflict if the individual was a member of the uniform services of the United
4 States who served in:

5 (1) Afghanistan or contiguous air space, as defined in federal
6 regulations, on or after October 24, 2001, and before a terminal date to be prescribed
7 by the United States Secretary of Defense; or

8 (2) Iraq or contiguous waters or air space, as defined in federal
9 regulations, on or after March 19, 2003, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by
10 the United States Secretary of Defense.

11 (b) There is a Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship.

12 (c) An individual may apply to the Office for a scholarship under this section
13 if the individual:

14 (1) Is a resident of Maryland;

15 (2) (i) Is accepted for admission or enrolled in the regular
16 undergraduate program at an eligible institution; or

17 (ii) Is accepted for admission or enrolled in a 2-year terminal
18 certificate program in which the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an
19 accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible institution; and

20 (3) (i) 1. Is a veteran, as defined under § 9-901 of the State
21 Government Article, who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict;

22 2. Is an active duty member of the armed forces who
23 served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

24 3. Is a member of a reserve component of the armed
25 forces of the United States or the Maryland National Guard who was activated as a
26 result of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict described in subsection (a) of this section; or

27 (ii) Is a son, daughter, or spouse of:

28 1. A veteran or active duty member of the armed forces
29 who is serving or has served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

30 2. A member of the reserve or Maryland National Guard
31 who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict described in
32 subsection (a) of this section.

1 (d) A scholarship awarded under this section shall supplement any federal
2 education benefits for which a recipient qualifies as a result of an individual's military
3 service or status as a dependent of a member of the armed forces or of a veteran of the
4 armed forces.

5 (e) (1) Each scholarship may be used, at any eligible institution, to pay for
6 educational expenses as defined by the Office, including:

7 (i) Tuition and mandatory fees; and

8 (ii) Room and board.

9 (2) The annual amount of a scholarship may not exceed 50% of the
10 equivalent annual tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board of a resident
11 undergraduate student at the 4-year public institution of higher education within the
12 University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University
13 College and University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for
14 a full-time resident undergraduate.

15 (f) A scholarship recipient shall maintain a grade point average of at least
16 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

17 (g) Each recipient of a scholarship under this section may hold the award for
18 5 years of full-time study or 8 years of part-time study.

19 (h) A scholarship recipient shall file for federal and State financial aid by
20 March 1 of each year.

21 (i) (1) The Office may not award an initial scholarship to an individual
22 after June 30, [2016] **2020**.

23 (2) The Office may renew a scholarship after June 30, [2016] **2020**, if
24 the individual received an initial scholarship before that date.

25 (j) A Senator or Delegate may authorize the Office to award all or a portion
26 of the funds authorized under Subtitles 4 and 5 of this title to eligible recipients of
27 scholarships awarded under this section.

28 (k) (1) Funds for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts
29 Scholarship shall be as provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the
30 Governor.

31 (2) (i) There is a Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts
32 Scholarship Fund in the Commission.

33 (ii) The Commission:

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1 1. May accept any gift or grant from any person or
2 corporation for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Fund;

3 2. Shall use any gift or grant that it receives for a
4 scholarship from the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship
5 Fund; and

6 3. Shall deposit any gift or grant that it receives for the
7 Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Fund with the State
8 Treasurer in a nonbudgeted account.

9 (3) (i) At the end of the fiscal year, the Commission shall prepare
10 an annual report on the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship
11 Fund that includes an accounting of all financial receipts and expenditures to and
12 from the Fund.

13 (ii) The Commission shall submit a copy of the report to the
14 General Assembly as provided under § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2012.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.