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By: Delegate M. Washington

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2015

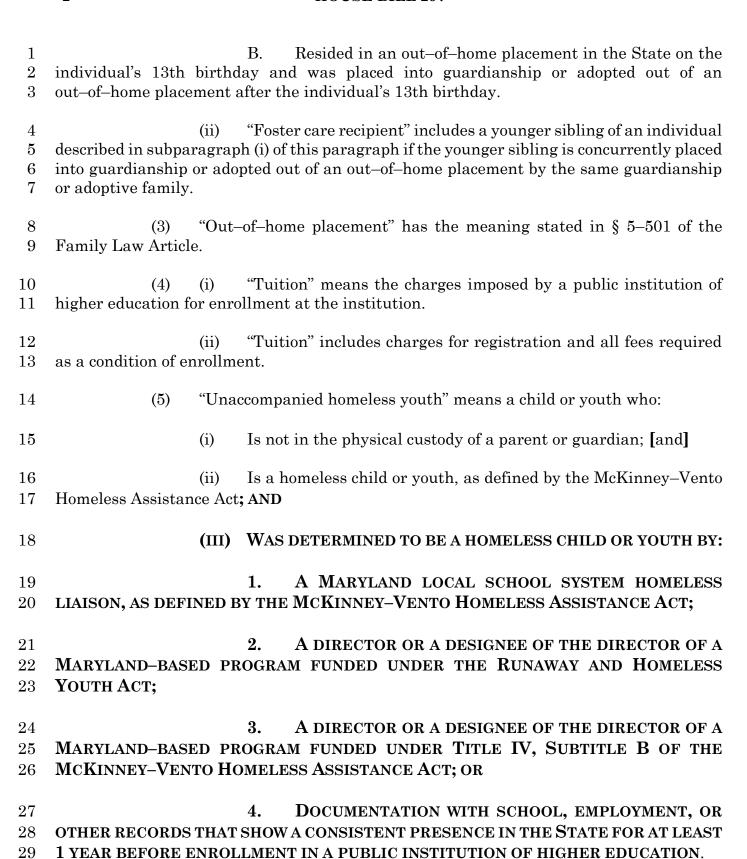
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1	AN ACT concerning
2 3	Higher Education – Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Tuition Exemption – Modification
4 5 6 7	FOR the purpose of altering the definition of unaccompanied homeless youth by requiring a determination of homelessness by a certain individual or certain documentation; requiring a financial aid administrator to annually make a certain verification; and generally relating to the tuition exemption for unaccompanied homeless youth.
8 9 10 11 12	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Education Section 15–106.1 Annotated Code of Maryland (2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)
13 14	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
15	Article – Education
16	15–106.1.
17	(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
18	(2) (i) "Foster care recipient" means an individual who:
19 20	1. Was placed in an out—of—home placement by the Maryland Department of Human Resources; and
21 22 23	2. A. Resided in an out-of-home placement in the State at the time the individual graduated from high school or successfully completed a general equivalency development examination (GED); or



 $\begin{array}{c} 5 lr 2254 \\ CF~SB~225 \end{array}$



30 (b) When determining whether a youth is an unaccompanied homeless youth, a 31 financial aid administrator shall verify **ANNUALLY** that the youth qualifies as an

- independent student under the federal College Cost Reduction and Access Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1087vv(d)(1)(H).
- 3 (c) (1) A foster care recipient or an unaccompanied homeless youth is exempt 4 from paying any tuition at a public institution of higher education, regardless of that foster 5 care recipient's or unaccompanied homeless youth's receipt of any scholarship or grant if:
- 6 (i) The foster care recipient or unaccompanied homeless youth is 7 enrolled at the institution on or before the date that the foster care recipient or 8 unaccompanied homeless youth reaches the age of 25 years;
- 9 (ii) The foster care recipient or unaccompanied homeless youth is 10 enrolled as a candidate for a vocational certificate, an associate's degree, or a bachelor's 11 degree; and
- 12 (iii) The foster care recipient or unaccompanied homeless youth has 13 filed for federal and State financial aid by March 1 each year.
- 14 (2) If a foster care recipient or an unaccompanied homeless youth receives 15 a scholarship or grant for postsecondary study and is enrolled before the recipient's 25th 16 birthday as a candidate for a vocational certificate, an associate's degree, or bachelor's 17 degree at a public institution of higher education, the scholarship or grant may not be 18 applied to the tuition for the foster care recipient or unaccompanied homeless youth.
- 19 (3) A foster care recipient or an unaccompanied homeless youth who is 20 exempt from tuition under this section continues to be exempt until the earlier of:
- 21 (i) 5 years after first enrolling as a candidate for an associate's 22 degree or a bachelor's degree at a public institution of higher education in the State; or
- 23 (ii) The date that the foster care recipient or unaccompanied 24 homeless youth is awarded a bachelor's degree.
- 25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 26 1, 2015.