

SENATE BILL 534

F2
SB 766/14 – EHE

5lr1963
CF HB 364

By: **Senators Madaleno, King, Montgomery, Raskin, Rosapepe, Waugh, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 2015

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – College Admissions Outreach Program for High–Achieving**
3 **Students – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the College Admissions Outreach Program for
5 High–Achieving Students; requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission
6 and the Maryland State Department of Education, in collaboration with certain
7 educational officials, agencies, and organizations, to jointly administer the Program;
8 requiring the Program to provide certain information on the college admissions
9 process to certain students free of charge, collaborate with a certain nonprofit entity
10 to identify certain students and to make certain students’ contact information
11 available to certain institutions of higher education, develop and implement a certain
12 system to provide certain institutions of higher education with access to a certain
13 student contact list, and establish a certain grant program; requiring the
14 Commission and the Department to adopt certain regulations; requiring the
15 Commission to submit a certain report to certain committees of the General
16 Assembly on or before a certain date; defining certain terms; and generally relating
17 to the College Admissions Outreach Program for High–Achieving Students.

18 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~
19 ~~Article – Education~~
20 ~~Section 18–301 and 18–303~~
21 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
22 ~~(2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)~~

23 BY adding to

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 Article – Education
 2 Section 18–303.2
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland
 4 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

7 **Article – Education**

8 ~~18–301.~~

9 ~~(a) There is a Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Program of Educational Excellence~~
 10 ~~Awards in this State that are awarded under this subtitle.~~

11 ~~(b) The Program shall consist of the following types of awards:~~

12 ~~(1) Guaranteed Access Grants that are awarded to the neediest students~~
 13 ~~to ensure that 100 percent of educational costs, as defined by regulations adopted by the~~
 14 ~~Commission, are paid; and~~

15 ~~(2) Educational Assistance Grants that are awarded to low and moderate~~
 16 ~~income students to assist in paying educational costs, as defined by regulations adopted by~~
 17 ~~the Commission.~~

18 ~~18–303.~~

19 ~~(a) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, each recipient of a Delegate Howard~~
 20 ~~P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Award shall:~~

21 ~~(1) Be accepted for admission in the regular undergraduate program at an~~
 22 ~~eligible institution or be enrolled in a 2-year associate degree program in which the course~~
 23 ~~work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible~~
 24 ~~institution;~~

25 ~~(2) Be a resident of this State;~~

26 ~~(3) Demonstrate to the Office a definite financial need; and~~

27 ~~(4) Accept any other conditions attached to the award.~~

28 ~~(b) Each recipient of a Guaranteed Access Grant shall:~~

29 ~~(1) Have attained a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or its~~
 30 ~~equivalent at the end of the first semester of the senior year in high school and have~~
 31 ~~completed high school or, failing to do so, on the recommendation of the recipient's high~~
 32 ~~school principal, provide evidence satisfactory to the Office of extenuating circumstances;~~

1 ~~(2) Begin college within 1 year of completing high school or, failing to do~~
2 ~~so, provide evidence satisfactory to the Office of extenuating circumstances;~~

3 ~~(3) Be under the age of 22 years at the time of receiving the first award;~~

4 ~~(4) Have successfully completed a college preparatory program in high~~
5 ~~school;~~

6 ~~(5) Enroll in college as a full-time student;~~

7 ~~(6) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, have an annual family income~~
8 ~~below a poverty index determined by the Commission; and~~

9 ~~(7) Satisfy any additional criteria the Commission may establish.~~

10 ~~(e) To determine the annual family income eligibility of an applicant for a~~
11 ~~Guaranteed Access Grant, the Office may not consider an amount received by the applicant~~
12 ~~as an earned income credit under § 32 of the Internal Revenue Code.~~

13 ~~(d) A student in grade 9 or grade 10 who applies and qualifies for a Guaranteed~~
14 ~~Access Grant on the basis of financial need as established by the Commission shall~~
15 ~~prequalify for a Guaranteed Access Grant to be used at the time of enrollment in an~~
16 ~~institution of higher education by agreeing in writing, as a secondary and undergraduate~~
17 ~~student, to:~~

18 ~~(1) Satisfy the attendance policy of the applicable school;~~

19 ~~(2) Refrain from substance abuse;~~

20 ~~(3) Provide information required by the Commission or the State Board of~~
21 ~~Education;~~

22 ~~(4) Complete and file on a timely basis applications for federal student aid~~
23 ~~for each year that the student plans to enroll in postsecondary education;~~

24 ~~(5) Participate in the College Readiness Outreach Program established in~~
25 ~~§ 18-303.1 of this subtitle until the student graduates from high school and matriculates~~
26 ~~at an institution of higher education; and~~

27 ~~(6) Satisfy any other program requirements set by the Office, the~~
28 ~~Commission, the State Board of Education, or the State Department of Education.~~

29 **18-303.2.**

30 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
31 **INDICATED.**

1 (2) “ELIGIBLE STUDENT” MEANS A STUDENT WHO:

2 (I) IS IN THE 10TH, 11TH, OR 12TH GRADE AT A HIGH SCHOOL
3 IN THE STATE;

4 (II) IS ACADEMICALLY HIGH ACHIEVING; AND

5 (III) ~~QUALIFIES FOR A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT UNDER~~
6 ~~THIS SUBTITLE~~ HAS AN ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME BELOW A POVERTY INDEX
7 DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION.

8 (3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OUTREACH
9 PROGRAM FOR HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS.

10 (B) THE COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH
11 COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION, COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS, AND INSTITUTIONS
12 OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SHALL JOINTLY ADMINISTER THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS
13 OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS.

14 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ENCOURAGE MORE
15 LOW-INCOME STUDENTS ~~WHO QUALIFY FOR A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT~~ TO
16 ENROLL IN AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT IS A GOOD ACADEMIC AND
17 FINANCIAL FIT FOR THE STUDENT.

18 (D) THE PROGRAM SHALL ~~PROVIDE~~:

19 (1) PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO EACH ELIGIBLE
20 STUDENT AT NO COST TO THE STUDENT:

21 ~~(1)~~ (I) INFORMATION ON COLLEGE ADMISSIONS AND COLLEGE
22 APPLICATION FEE WAIVERS; AND

23 ~~(2)~~ (II) MATERIAL ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO APPLY TO AT
24 LEAST FOUR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION DURING THE STUDENT’S
25 APPLICATION PROCESS;

26 (2) COLLABORATE WITH THE COLLEGE BOARD, COUNTY BOARDS OF
27 EDUCATION, AND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS TO IDENTIFY STUDENTS ELIGIBLE
28 FOR THE PROGRAM AND MAKE THE CONTACT INFORMATION OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS
29 AVAILABLE TO THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT AGREE TO THE
30 PROVISIONS OF ITEM (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION;

1 **(3) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS PUBLIC AND**
2 **PRIVATE NONPROFIT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE THAT DO**
3 **NOT ALLOW OPEN ACCESS TO THEIR INSTITUTIONS TO ACCESS THE LIST OF**
4 **ELIGIBLE STUDENTS COMPILED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER ITEM (2) OF THIS**
5 **SUBSECTION IF THE INSTITUTION AGREES TO SUBMIT TO AND GET APPROVED BY**
6 **THE COMMISSION A PROMOTION PLAN THAT:**

7 **(I) ADMITS ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WITHOUT AN APPLICATION;**
8 **OR**

9 **(II) 1. MARKETS DIRECTLY TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS**
10 **IDENTIFIED UNDER ITEM (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO ENCOURAGE THESE**
11 **STUDENTS TO APPLY TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND**

12 **2. DESCRIBES IN DETAIL THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER**
13 **EDUCATION'S STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS; AND**

14 **(4) ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM THAT MAKES AN AWARD TO AN**
15 **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM IN**
16 **ACCORDANCE WITH ITEM (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR EACH ELIGIBLE STUDENT**
17 **WHO ENROLLS IN THE INSTITUTION USING EITHER OF THE ADMISSION PROCESSES**
18 **DESCRIBED IN ITEM (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND WHO GRADUATES FROM THAT**
19 **INSTITUTION.**

20 **(E) FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE**
21 **BUDGET.**

22 **(F) (1) THE COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT**
23 **REGULATIONS TO DEFINE A "HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENT".**

24 **(2) THE COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT ANY**
25 **OTHER REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.**

26 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before November 1,**
27 **2015, the Maryland Higher Education Commission shall submit a report to the Senate**
28 **Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on**
29 **Ways and Means, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the**
30 **Commission's plan, developed in collaboration with each of the 4-year institutions of higher**
31 **education in the State in accordance with § 18-303.2 of the Education Article, to inform**
32 **students who attend public high schools in which at least 75% of the student population is**
33 **enrolled in the National School Lunch Program about the College Admissions Outreach**
34 **Program for High-Achieving Students.**

35 **SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
36 **July 1, 2015.**