

Chapter 201

(House Bill 779)

AN ACT concerning

~~Higher Education – Low Income Student Outreach and College Access Act of 2015~~ **Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Pilot Program**

FOR the purpose of establishing the ~~Low Income Student~~ Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Pilot Program targeting low-income Maryland high school ~~graduates~~ *students*; establishing certain purposes of the Program; requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to administer the Program and perform certain duties; establishing certain eligibility requirements for participation in the Program; requiring certain actions from nonprofit organizations that receive Program funding; requiring the Commission to submit a summary report on the Program on or before certain dates; ~~requiring the Governor to make an appropriation in the State budget for the Commission for a certain purpose~~; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the ~~Low Income Student~~ Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Pilot Program.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 11-1101 through ~~11-1107~~ 11-1106 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 11. ~~Low Income Student~~ Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Pilot Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

SUBTITLE 11. ~~LOW INCOME STUDENT~~ MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION OUTREACH AND COLLEGE ACCESS PILOT PROGRAM.

11-1101.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION” MEANS AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS EXEMPT OR ELIGIBLE FOR EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.

(c) **“PROGRAM” MEANS THE ~~LOW-INCOME-STUDENT~~ MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION OUTREACH AND COLLEGE ACCESS PILOT PROGRAM.**

11-1102.

THERE IS A ~~LOW-INCOME-STUDENT~~ MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION OUTREACH AND COLLEGE ACCESS PILOT PROGRAM.

11-1103.

THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM ARE TO:

(1) **ENCOURAGE LOW-INCOME MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL ~~GRADUATES~~ STUDENTS TO ATTEND AND COMPLETE COLLEGE;**

(2) **CONNECT POTENTIAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WITH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE A HISTORY OF SUCCESSFUL HIGHER EDUCATION OUTCOMES FOR TARGETED YOUTH;**

(3) **CREATE AN EQUAL MATCHING FUND FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO ACCESS IN ORDER TO INCREASE COLLEGE OUTREACH SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME STUDENTS;**

(4) **PROVIDE FUNDING FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN COMMUNITIES TO PROVIDE TARGETED OUTREACH TO ~~ENCOURAGE~~ LOW-INCOME STUDENTS TO ENROLL IN COLLEGE; AND**

(5) **ESTABLISH A 2-YEAR PILOT PROGRAM TO DETERMINE IF THE PROGRAM CAN LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN LOW-INCOME STUDENTS ATTENDING AND SUCCEEDING IN COLLEGE.**

11-1104.

(A) **THE COMMISSION SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.**

(B) **TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM, THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

(1) **ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM TO BE PUBLISHED ON THE COMMISSION’S WEB SITE THROUGH WHICH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS MAY LEARN ABOUT ELIGIBILITY, APPLICATION, AND COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS AND APPLY FOR FUNDING AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;**

(2) DEVELOP APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND REVIEW AND APPROVE APPLICATIONS;

(3) DEVELOP A PROCESS FOR VERIFYING THAT MATCHING FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE; AND

(4) ALLOCATE FUNDING TO APPROVED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS.

11-1105.

(A) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SHALL:

(1) BE LOCATED IN THE STATE;

(2) HAVE A CONTRACT OR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM OR AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR MUST ESTABLISH ONE IF ONE DOES NOT EXIST; AND

(3) DEMONSTRATE AN EQUAL MATCH FOR FUNDS REQUESTED.

(B) A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT RECEIVES FUNDING THROUGH THE PROGRAM SHALL:

(1) SUBMIT DATA ON OUTREACH PROGRAMS;

(2) TRACK STUDENT PROGRESS THROUGH THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM; AND

(3) SUBMIT ANNUAL REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 FOLLOWING THE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH FUNDS WERE RECEIVED.

11-1106.

(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL PREPARE A REPORT ON THE PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES:

(1) A SUMMARY OF THE REPORTS RECEIVED REGARDING THE PROGRAM;

(2) THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS DISTRIBUTED EACH FISCAL YEAR; AND

(3) IF AN ELIGIBLE WAIT LIST EXISTS, THE NUMBER OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ON THE WAIT LIST.

(B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2017, AND DECEMBER 1, 2018, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A COPY OF THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

~~11-1107.~~

~~BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2017, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE \$500,000 IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET FOR THE COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of September 30, 2019, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.