

HOUSE BILL 1288

F2

(6lr3103)

ENROLLED BILL

— Appropriations/Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs —

Introduced by **Delegates P. Young and M. Washington**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Tuition Waivers for Foster Care Recipients and**
3 **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~repealing the requirement that certain foster care recipients and~~
5 ~~certain unaccompanied homeless youth must be a certain candidate for certain~~
6 ~~certificate or degree programs in order to receive a certain tuition waiver;~~ defining
7 the term vocational certificate to include completion of a certain course of study by
8 taking credit-bearing courses or noncredit courses for purposes of establishing
9 eligibility of foster care recipients for certain tuition waivers; altering a certain
10 definition; *altering a certain requirement that certain foster care recipients and*
11 *certain unaccompanied homeless youth apply for certain financial aid by a certain*
12 *time;* and generally relating to tuition waivers for foster care recipients and
13 unaccompanied homeless youth.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

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.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 Article – Education
 2 Section 15–106.1(a)(1) and (3) and (c)
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland
 4 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 6 Article – Education
 7 Section ~~15–106.1(e)~~ 15–106.1(a)(2)
 8 Annotated Code of Maryland
 9 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

10 BY adding to
 11 Article – Education
 12 Section 15–106.1(a)(6)
 13 Annotated Code of Maryland
 14 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 15–106.1.

19 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

20 (2) (i) “Foster care recipient” means an individual who:

21 1. Was placed in an out-of-home placement by the Maryland
 22 Department of Human Resources; and

23 2. A. Resided in an out-of-home placement ~~in the State~~
 24 ~~at the time the individual graduated from high school or successfully completed a general~~
 25 ~~equivalency development examination (GED) ON THE INDIVIDUAL’S 18TH BIRTHDAY;~~
 26 [or]

27 B. Resided in an out-of-home placement ~~in the State~~ on the
 28 individual’s 13th birthday and was placed into guardianship or adopted out of an
 29 out-of-home placement after the individual’s 13th birthday; OR

30 C. RESIDED IN AN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT IN THE
 31 STATE FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR ON OR AFTER THE INDIVIDUAL’S 13TH BIRTHDAY AND
 32 RETURNED TO LIVE WITH THE INDIVIDUAL’S PARENTS AFTER THE OUT-OF-HOME
 33 PLACEMENT ENDED.

1 (ii) “Foster care recipient” includes a younger sibling of an individual
2 described in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph if the younger sibling is concurrently placed
3 into guardianship or adopted out of an out-of-home placement by the same guardianship
4 or adoptive family.

5 (3) “Out-of-home placement” has the meaning stated in § 5-501 of the
6 Family Law Article.

7 **(6) “VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE” MEANS A CERTIFICATE OR LICENSE**
8 **AWARDED BY A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION ON COMPLETION OF A**
9 **COURSE OF STUDY THAT PREPARES AN INDIVIDUAL TO WORK IN A CAREER FIELD BY**
10 **TAKING CREDIT-BEARING COURSES OR NONCREDIT COURSES.**

11 (c) (1) A foster care recipient or an unaccompanied homeless youth is exempt
12 from paying any tuition at a public institution of higher education, regardless of that foster
13 care recipient’s or unaccompanied homeless youth’s receipt of any scholarship or grant if:

14 (i) The foster care recipient or unaccompanied homeless youth is
15 enrolled at the institution on or before the date that the foster care recipient or
16 unaccompanied homeless youth reaches the age of 25 years; ~~AND~~

17 (ii) ~~¶~~The foster care recipient or unaccompanied homeless youth is
18 enrolled as a candidate for a vocational certificate, an associate’s degree, or a bachelor’s
19 degree; and

20 (iii)~~¶~~ The foster care recipient or unaccompanied homeless youth has
21 filed for federal and State financial aid ~~by March 1 each year.~~

22 (2) If a foster care recipient or an unaccompanied homeless youth receives
23 a scholarship or grant for postsecondary study and is enrolled before the recipient’s 25th
24 birthday ~~¶~~as a candidate for a vocational certificate, an associate’s degree, or bachelor’s
25 degree~~¶~~ at a public institution of higher education, the scholarship or grant may not be
26 applied to the tuition for the foster care recipient or unaccompanied homeless youth.

27 (3) A foster care recipient or an unaccompanied homeless youth who is
28 exempt from tuition under this section continues to be exempt until the earlier of:

29 (i) 5 years after first enrolling ~~¶~~as a candidate for an associate’s
30 degree or a bachelor’s degree~~¶~~ at a public institution of higher education in the State; or

31 (ii) The date that the foster care recipient or unaccompanied
32 homeless youth is awarded a bachelor’s degree.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
34 1, 2016.