

# SENATE BILL 1170

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CF HB 1403

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By: **Senators Conway, Pugh, McFadden, Ferguson, and Nathan-Pulliam**  
Constitutional Requirements Complied with for Introduction in the last 35 Days of Session  
Introduced and read first time: March 18, 2016  
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Next-Generation Scholars of Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain criteria for the prequalification of a student for a  
4 certain grant program; changing the name of the College Readiness Outreach  
5 Program to be the Next-Generation Scholars of Maryland Program; altering the  
6 purpose and certain requirements of a certain program; establishing a certain pilot  
7 program to be administered in certain school systems; requiring certain services to  
8 be provided; mandating certain funding for certain years for the pilot program;  
9 requiring the State Department of Education and the Maryland Higher Education  
10 Commission to submit a certain report on or before a certain date; and generally  
11 relating to the Next-Generation Scholars of Maryland Program.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Education  
14 Section 18–303 and 18–303.1  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Education**

20 18–303.

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

23 (1) Be accepted for admission in the regular undergraduate program at an  
24 eligible institution or be enrolled in a 2-year associate degree program in which the course

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible  
2 institution;

3 (2) Be a resident of this State;

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (4) Have successfully completed a college preparatory program in high  
15 school;

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

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

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

20 (c) To determine the annual family income eligibility of an applicant for a  
21 Guaranteed Access Grant, the Office may not consider an amount received by the applicant  
22 as an earned income credit under § 32 of the Internal Revenue Code.

23 (d) A student in grade [9] 7 or grade [10] 8 who applies and qualifies for a  
24 Guaranteed Access Grant on the basis of financial need as established by the Commission  
25 shall prequalify for a Guaranteed Access Grant to be used at the time of enrollment in an  
26 institution of higher education by agreeing in writing, as a secondary and undergraduate  
27 student, to:

28 (1) Satisfy the attendance policy of the applicable school;

29 (2) Refrain from substance abuse;

30 (3) Provide information required by the Commission or the State Board of  
31 Education;

1           **(4) APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER**  
2 **EDUCATION DURING THE STUDENT’S SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL;**

3           **[(4)] (5)** Complete and file on a timely basis applications for federal  
4 student aid for each year that the student plans to enroll in postsecondary education;

5           **[(5)] (6)** Participate in the [College Readiness Outreach] **NEXT**  
6 **GENERATION SCHOLARS OF MARYLAND** Program established in § 18–303.1 of this  
7 subtitle until the student graduates from high school and matriculates at an institution of  
8 higher education; [and

9           **(6)] (7) MAINTAIN A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 2.5 ON A**  
10 **4.0 SCALE OR ITS EQUIVALENT; AND**

11           **(8)** Satisfy any other program requirements set by the Office, the  
12 Commission, the State Board of Education, or the State Department of Education.

13 18–303.1.

14           (a) In this section, “Program” means the [College Readiness Outreach Program]  
15 **NEXT-GENERATION SCHOLARS OF MARYLAND PROGRAM.**

16           (b) The [Commission and the] Department, in collaboration with **THE**  
17 **COMMISSION**, county boards of education, county superintendents, and institutions of  
18 higher education, shall [jointly] administer the [College Readiness Outreach]  
19 **NEXT-GENERATION SCHOLARS OF MARYLAND** Program.

20           (c) The Program shall provide guidance to students who qualify for a Guaranteed  
21 Access Grant in [9th] **7TH** or [10th] **8TH** grade to assist the students in successfully:

22           (1) Completing a college preparatory curriculum;

23           (2) Graduating from high school; [and]

24           (3) Matriculating at an institution of higher education as defined in [§§  
25 18–305 and 18–308] **§ 18–303** of this subtitle; **AND**

26           **(4) MAKING TIMELY PROGRESS TO COMPLETE A DEGREE PROGRAM.**

27           (d) **[(1)]** The [Commission and the] Department shall: [designate statewide and  
28 regional coordinators for the Program.

29           (2) The statewide and regional coordinators shall:

1 (i) Work with county boards of education and county  
2 superintendents to provide guidance and one-on-one mentoring to participating students  
3 in high school; and

4 (ii)] (1) Publicize the Program through community outreach and  
5 marketing materials;

6 (2) SOLICIT APPLICATIONS FROM NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO  
7 ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM IN ONE OR ALL APPLICABLE SCHOOL SYSTEMS;

8 (3) GIVE PRIORITY TO APPLICATIONS WHICH INCLUDE BUSINESS AND  
9 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERS; AND

10 (4) AWARD GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO ADMINISTER  
11 THE PROGRAM.

12 (e) [The Commission and the Department may enter into agreements with  
13 existing organizations that provide counseling and mentoring services to fulfill the  
14 requirements of this section.] **THE SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS  
15 PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE:**

16 (1) A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PLAN;

17 (2) SUMMER WORK OR INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES;

18 (3) FINANCIAL AID LITERACY ASSISTANCE;

19 (4) CAREER INTEREST ASSESSMENTS;

20 (5) MENTORSHIP AND ONE-ON-ONE COUNSELING;

21 (6) VISITS TO COLLEGE CAMPUSES AND WORKPLACES;

22 (7) AN INTENSIVE SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS  
23 ENTERING AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DIRECTLY FROM HIGH SCHOOL;  
24 AND

25 (8) A PLAN TO MATRICULATE AND GRADUATE FROM AN INSTITUTION  
26 OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

27 (f) [The Commission and the Department may supplement professional mentors  
28 with] **IN PROVIDING THE SERVICES REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS  
29 SECTION, THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT RECEIVE GRANTS MAY UTILIZE:**

1 (1) Postsecondary students receiving work–study assistance at Maryland  
2 institutions of higher education; and

3 (2) Secondary students in 11th and 12th grades who are successfully  
4 completing high school graduation requirements.

5 (g) [(1) Funds] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (H) OF THIS**  
6 **SECTION, FUNDS** for the Program shall be as provided in the State budget.

7 [(2) To the extent that funds are provided, the State shall provide 50 percent  
8 of the costs associated with the local administration and one–on–one mentoring  
9 components of the Program, except that in a county that meets the requirements of a  
10 “qualified distressed county” under § 1–101 of the Economic Development Article the State  
11 shall provide 75 percent of the costs.]

12 **(H) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 THROUGH 2023, THE GOVERNOR SHALL**  
13 **INCLUDE \$5,000,000 IN GENERAL FUNDS IN THE STATE BUDGET ANNUALLY FOR A**  
14 **NEXT–GENERATION SCHOLARS PILOT PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED IN SCHOOL**  
15 **SYSTEMS IN WHICH AT LEAST 50% OF THE STUDENTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF**  
16 **FULL–TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENTS AS DEFINED IN § 5–202 OF THIS ARTICLE ARE**  
17 **ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A FREE LUNCH UNDER THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH**  
18 **PROGRAM IN THE 2015–2016 SCHOOL YEAR.**

19 [(h) (I) The [Commission and the] Department may adopt regulations  
20 necessary to implement this section.

21 **(J) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2022, THE COMMISSION AND THE**  
22 **DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM**  
23 **AND THE PILOT PROGRAM TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**  
24 **2–1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,**  
25 **INCLUDING:**

26 **(1) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS FROM EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
27 **WHO WERE PREQUALIFIED FOR THE GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT EACH YEAR OF**  
28 **THE PROGRAM;**

29 **(2) THE PROGRESS OF EACH STUDENT THROUGH THE PROGRAM,**  
30 **INCLUDING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
31 **MATRICULATION AND RETENTION RATES, AND, IF APPLICABLE, INSTITUTION OF**  
32 **HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATION RATES;**

33 **(3) THE AMOUNT AND QUALITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY**  
34 **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO PARTICIPATING STUDENTS, INCLUDING THE USE**

1 OF COLLEGE WORK-STUDY STUDENTS AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AS MENTORS  
2 AND COUNSELORS;

3 (4) THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT RECEIVED GRANTS  
4 UNDER THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING ANY OTHER ENTITIES THAT PROVIDED SERVICES  
5 SUCH AS INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND  
6 LOCAL SCHOOLS OR SCHOOL SYSTEMS;

7 (5) THE AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL AID, IN ADDITION TO THE  
8 GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT, THAT PARTICIPATING STUDENTS RECEIVED EACH  
9 YEAR THAT THEY WERE ENROLLED IN AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND

10 (6) FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE SUCCESS OF THE  
11 PROGRAM AND PILOT PROGRAM AND WHETHER FUNDING FOR THE PILOT  
12 PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONTINUED OR EXPANDED.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
14 1, 2016.