

## Chapter 654

**(House Bill 1488)**

AN ACT concerning

**Service, Stipends, and Scholarships – Maryland Corps Program – Established**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Corps Program; providing for the purpose of the Program; requiring a certain Board of Directors to administer and manage the Program; providing for the composition of the Board; providing for the appointment, terms, and removal of members of the Board; providing that members of the Board may not receive certain compensation but are entitled to certain reimbursement; requiring the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism within the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives to provide certain staffing and assistance to the Board and a certain operator; requiring the Board to submit a certain Request for Proposals (RFP) on or before a certain date; requiring the RFP to include certain elements and expectations for a certain operator; requiring certain corps participants to serve a certain nonprofit or governmental entity for a certain period of time; authorizing certain corps participants to receive certain stipends and certain scholarships under certain circumstances; specifying the use of certain scholarships; establishing the Maryland Corps Program Fund; specifying the purpose of the Fund; requiring the Board to administer the Fund; specifying that the Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to a certain provision of law; requiring the State Treasurer to hold the Fund separately and invest the money in the Fund in a certain manner; requiring the Comptroller to account for the Fund; providing for the composition and uses of the Fund; prohibiting any unspent portion of the Fund from being transferred or used in a certain manner; requiring the Board to prepare certain reports annually; authorizing the Fund to be subject to a certain audit; ~~requiring the Governor to include certain appropriations~~ providing that funds for the Program will be as provided in the State budget in certain fiscal years for certain purposes; requiring the Board to explore certain possibilities; requiring the Board to submit certain reports to the Governor and the General Assembly in accordance with certain provisions of law; providing for the staggering of the terms of certain members of the Board; stating the intent of the General Assembly in awarding stipends and scholarships under this Act; requiring certain members of the Board to be appointed on or before a certain date; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the establishment of the Maryland Corps Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education

Section 18–103

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

(As enacted by Chapter 277 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2011)

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 24–1101 through 24–1111 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 11. Maryland Corps Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – State Finance and Procurement

Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)

Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2015 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Finance and Procurement

Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)84. and 85.

Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2015 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to

Article – State Finance and Procurement

Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)86.

Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2015 Replacement Volume)

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

**Article – Education**

18–103.

Except as otherwise provided in Subtitles 4, 5, and 12 of this title, a scholarship, grant, loan, or other student financial assistance awarded by the Office may be used only at a public or private nonprofit institution of higher education in this State that possesses a certificate of approval from the Commission.

**SUBTITLE 11. MARYLAND CORPS PROGRAM.**

**24–1101.**

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

**(B) “BOARD” MEANS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PROGRAM.**

**(C) “CORPS PARTICIPANT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM AND:**

- (1) IS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 17 YEARS OLD AND 23 YEARS OLD;**
- (2) IS ELIGIBLE FOR IN-STATE TUITION;**
- (3) HAS OBTAINED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED; AND**
- (4) HAS NOT OBTAINED A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE, AN ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE, OR A BACHELOR’S DEGREE FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

**(D) “FUND” MEANS THE MARYLAND CORPS PROGRAM FUND.**

**(E) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND CORPS PROGRAM.**

**24-1102.**

**(A) THERE IS A MARYLAND CORPS PROGRAM IN THE STATE ADMINISTERED AND MANAGED BY THE BOARD.**

**(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO:**

- (1) PROVIDE MEANINGFUL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES TO AT LEAST 100 CORPS PARTICIPANTS THAT WILL ADDRESS THE SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY;**
- (2) EQUIP CORPS PARTICIPANTS WITH THE SKILLS THAT WILL ENABLE THEM TO SUCCESSFULLY MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND**
- (3) PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE PROGRAM TO BE USED AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TOWARD VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATES, ASSOCIATE’S DEGREES, OR BACHELOR’S DEGREES.**

**24-1103.**

**(A) A BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL ADMINISTER AND MANAGE THE PROGRAM.**

**(B) THE BOARD CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

- (1) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**
- (2) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; AND**
- (3) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.**

**(C) IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD, THE PRESIDENT, SPEAKER, AND GOVERNOR SHALL CONSIDER:**

**(1) THE PROFESSIONAL OR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN COMMUNITY OR OTHER SERVICE, NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, OR VOLUNTEERISM; AND**

**(2) THE CULTURAL, GEOGRAPHIC, RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND GENDER DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.**

**(D) A MEMBER OF THE BOARD:**

**(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD; BUT**

**(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

**(E) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD IS 4 YEARS.**

**(2) THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS ON JUNE 1, 2016.**

**(3) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.**

**(F) (1) A MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT MAY BE REMOVED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR THE REASONS STATED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

**(2) A MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER MAY BE REMOVED BY THE SPEAKER FOR THE REASONS STATED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

**(3) A MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR MAY BE REMOVED BY THE GOVERNOR FOR THE REASONS STATED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

**(4) A MEMBER OF THE BOARD MAY BE REMOVED FOR:**

- (I) INCOMPETENCE;
- (II) MISCONDUCT;
- (III) IMMORALITY; OR
- (IV) FAILURE TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE POSITION.

**24-1104.**

**THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM WITHIN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES SHALL PROVIDE:**

- (1) STAFF AND OTHER SUPPORT TO THE BOARD; AND
- (2) TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO THE OPERATOR SELECTED UNDER § 24-1105 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

**24-1105.**

(A) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2017, THE BOARD SHALL ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR AN OPERATOR FOR THE PROGRAM.

(B) THE OPERATOR SHALL MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD.

(C) THE RFP SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR THE OPERATOR:

(1) IDENTIFYING MEANINGFUL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORPS PARTICIPANTS THAT ADDRESS THE SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY THAT ARE PROVIDED BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS OR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES;

(2) IDENTIFYING SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL TEACH 21ST CENTURY SKILLS TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS;

(3) IDENTIFYING ACADEMIC CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORPS PARTICIPANTS;

(4) CREATING A SELECTIVE RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR CORPS PARTICIPANTS, GIVING PRIORITY TO LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS;

**(5) CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING AN ORIENTATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CORPS PARTICIPANTS AND THE NONPROFIT OR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHERE CORPS PARTICIPANTS EFFECTUATE THEIR SERVICE;**

**(6) PROVIDING SUPPORT TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS IN FINDING PLACEMENTS;**

**(7) EMPHASIZING AND ENCOURAGING THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A SUCCESSFUL CONTRIBUTOR TO SOCIETY, A MEASURE OF WHICH IS A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE, AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE, OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE;**

**(8) CREATING TOOLS TO MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF CORPS PARTICIPANTS AS THEY TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE, AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE, OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE;**

**(9) FACILITATING THE AWARD OF STIPENDS FOR CORPS PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR YEAR OF SERVICE;**

**(10) FACILITATING THE AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CORPS PARTICIPANTS WHO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM TO BE USED AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TOWARD VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATES, ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES, OR BACHELOR'S DEGREES; ~~AND~~**

**(11) IDENTIFYING WHAT STATE SUPPORT WILL BE NECESSARY AND WHAT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO SUSTAIN AND INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE PROGRAM; AND**

**~~(11)~~ (12) ANY OTHER CHARACTERISTICS THAT THE BOARD DETERMINES WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM.**

**24-1106.**

**A CORPS PARTICIPANT:**

**(1) SHALL SERVE FOR AT LEAST 9 MONTHS WITH A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION OR GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT HAS A FOCUS ON COMMUNITY OR OTHER SERVICE, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, VOLUNTEERISM, OR OTHER ACTIVITIES OR EXPERIENCES WITH A SIMILAR MISSION; AND**

**(2) IS ELIGIBLE FOR A MONETARY STIPEND IN AN AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF UP TO \$15,000.**

**24-1107.**

**(A) A CORPS PARTICIPANT WHO COMPLETES THE PROGRAM IS ELIGIBLE FOR A ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIP AWARD, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD, IN THE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$6,000.**

**(B) A SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION:**

**(1) MAY BE USED AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION AS DESCRIBED UNDER § 18-103 OF THIS ARTICLE TOWARD A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE, AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE, OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE; AND**

**(2) MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT OR IMPEDE THE AWARD OF ANY OTHER FINANCIAL AID FOR WHICH THE CORPS PARTICIPANT IS ELIGIBLE.**

**24-1108.**

**(A) THERE IS A MARYLAND CORPS PROGRAM FUND.**

**(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO:**

**(1) PROVIDE STIPENDS TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS;**

**(2) PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE PROGRAM TO BE USED AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE TOWARD VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATES, ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES, AND BACHELOR'S DEGREES;**

**(3) COVER EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE BOARD, INCLUDING EXPENSES INCURRED DURING THE DEVELOPMENT, ISSUANCE, AWARDING, AND FUNDING OF THE RFP; AND**

**(4) COVER EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE OPERATOR SELECTED UNDER § 24-1105 OF THIS SUBTITLE, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD TO BE RELEVANT TO THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM.**

**(C) THE BOARD SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

**(D) THE FUND IS A CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

**(E) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY AND SHALL INVEST THE MONEY IN THE FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

**(2) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.**

**(F) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

**(G) THE BOARD:**

**(1) MAY ACCEPT ANY GIFT OR GRANT FROM ANY PERSON FOR THE FUND;**

**(2) SHALL USE ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT RECEIVES FOR THE REASONS STATED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

**(3) SHALL DEPOSIT ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT RECEIVES FOR THE FUND WITH THE STATE TREASURER.**

**(H) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

**(1) MONEY APPROPRIATED UNDER § 24-1109 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

**(2) GIFTS OR GRANTS RECEIVED BY THE BOARD FOR THE FUND;**

**(3) INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND**

**(4) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

**(I) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR:**

**(1) PROVIDING STIPENDS TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS;**

**(2) PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE PROGRAM TO BE USED AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE TOWARD VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATES, ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES, AND BACHELOR'S DEGREES;**

**(3) COVERING EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE BOARD, INCLUDING EXPENSES INCURRED DURING THE DEVELOPMENT, ISSUANCE, AWARDING, AND FUNDING OF THE RFP; AND**

**(4) COVERING EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE OPERATOR SELECTED UNDER § 24-1105 OF THIS SUBTITLE, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD TO BE RELEVANT TO THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM.**



(J) ANY UNSPENT PORTION OF THE FUND MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED OR REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE BUT SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBTITLE.

(K) (1) BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2018, AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR, THE BOARD SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FUND THAT INCLUDES AN ACCOUNTING OF ALL FINANCIAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES TO AND FROM THE FUND.

(2) THE BOARD SHALL SUBMIT A COPY OF THE REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(L) THE FUND MAY BE SUBJECT TO AN AUDIT BY THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR.

24-1109.

(A) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018, ~~THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST \$250,000 IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE FUND~~ FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BOARD TO DEVELOP, ISSUE, AND AWARD THE RFP DESCRIBED UNDER § 24-1105 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, ~~THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST \$1,000,000 IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE FUND~~ FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BOARD TO DISBURSE STIPENDS TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS AND TO COVER ANY ADMINISTRATIVE OR OTHER COSTS INCURRED BY THE BOARD OR OPERATOR SELECTED UNDER § 24-1105 OF THIS SUBTITLE TO OPERATIONALIZE THE PROGRAM.

(C) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, ~~THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST \$2,000,000 IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE FUND~~ FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BOARD TO:

(1) PROVIDE STIPENDS TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS;

(2) PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE PROGRAM TO BE USED AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE TOWARD VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATES, ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES, AND BACHELOR'S DEGREES;

**(3) COVER EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE BOARD, INCLUDING EXPENSES INCURRED DURING THE DEVELOPMENT, ISSUANCE, AWARDING, AND FUNDING OF THE RFP; AND**

**(4) COVER EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE OPERATOR SELECTED UNDER § 24-1105 OF THIS SUBTITLE, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD TO BE RELEVANT TO THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM.**

**24-1110.**

**THE BOARD SHALL EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF:**

**(1) ACCESSING FEDERAL OR OTHER GRANT FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM; AND**

**(2) AWARDING CORPS PARTICIPANTS WITH ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THEIR SERVICE.**

**24-1111.**

**ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE BOARD SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING:**

**(1) THE NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF STIPENDS AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM;**

**(2) THE NONPROFIT OR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WITH WHICH CORPS PARTICIPANTS ARE PLACED;**

**(3) THE INSTITUTIONS, IF ANY, THAT AWARD ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR A CORPS PARTICIPANT'S SERVICE;**

**(4) THE NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM; AND**

**(5) AT WHICH INSTITUTIONS CORPS PARTICIPANTS USE THEIR SCHOLARSHIPS.**

**Article – State Finance and Procurement**

**6-226.**

(a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General Fund of the State.

(ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply to the following funds:

84. the Economic Development Marketing Fund; [and]

85. the Military Personnel and Veteran–Owned Small Business No–Interest Loan Fund; AND

**86. THE MARYLAND CORPS PROGRAM FUND.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial members of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Corps Program established under Section 1 of this Act shall expire as follows:

- (1) two members in 2019;
- (2) three members in 2020; and
- (3) two members in 2021.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that:

- (1) the first Maryland Corps Program stipends shall be awarded on or before June 1, 2018; and
- (2) the first Maryland Corps Program scholarships shall be awarded on or before June 1, 2019.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the members of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Corps Program as established under Section 1 of this Act shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Governor on or before September 1, 2016.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2016.

**Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2016.**