

HOUSE BILL 1608

F4, F2

7lr3622
CF SB 1131

By: **Delegates Otto, Adams, Anderton, Carozza, Mautz, and Sample-Hughes**

Introduced and read first time: February 23, 2017

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Somerset County – Community College – Eligibility of Students to Pay No**
3 **Tuition or Fees**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that certain students residing in Somerset County may enroll
5 full time in certain community colleges and pay no tuition or fees for a certain time
6 if certain conditions are met; requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission
7 to pay 100% of in-county tuition and fees for certain eligible students; requiring a
8 student to repay funds spent on the student's behalf to the Commission and county
9 if the student is guilty of a felony; prohibiting a student from being eligible to pay no
10 tuition or fees under this Act if the student is convicted of a felony; and generally
11 relating to the eligibility of students residing in Somerset County to attend
12 community college and pay no tuition or fees.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Education
15 Section 16–310(b)(1)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Education
20 Section 16–310(e)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Education**

26 16–310.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(b) (1) Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of this subsection and subsection (g) of this section, any student who attends a community college not supported by the county in which the student resides shall pay, in addition to the student tuition and fees payable by a resident of a county that supports the community college, an out-of-county or out-of-region fee at least equal to 60% of the county share per full-time equivalent student as determined under § 16-305 of this subtitle.

(e) (1) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, if any student resides in a county where the per capita wealth is below the State average and the county does not support a community college or a branch campus of a community college, except for Baltimore City, the student may enroll at a community college or a branch campus in the State, either of which is located in a county adjacent to the one in which the student resides, and pay only the tuition and fees applicable to a county resident that supports the community college.

(2) For any student determined to be eligible under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Commission shall pay:

(i) In fiscal year 1992, 75% of any applicable out-of-county fee provided that the county in which the student resides pays 25 percent of that fee; and

(ii) In fiscal year 1993, and each fiscal year thereafter, 50% of any applicable out-of-county fee provided that the county in which the student resides pays 50 percent of that fee.

(3) The Commission may make payments to effectuate the provisions of this section from funds specifically appropriated for this purpose in the State budget or any supplemental budget request.

(4) (I) ANY STUDENT WHO IS DETERMINED TO BE ELIGIBLE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND WHO RESIDES IN SOMERSET COUNTY MAY ENROLL FULL TIME AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IN THE FALL SEMESTER IMMEDIATELY AFTER GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND PAY NO TUITION OR FEES FOR UP TO 3 YEARS OR UNTIL COMPLETION OF AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST, IF THE STUDENT:

1. ANNUALLY COMPLETES THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID;

2. COMPLETES AN APPLICATION REQUIRED BY AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION;

3. MAINTAINS AT LEAST A 2.00 GPA;

1 4. **MAINTAINS FULL-TIME ATTENDANCE DURING EACH**
2 **FALL AND SPRING SEMESTER; AND**

3 5. **HAS NOT BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY.**

4 **(II) FOR ANY STUDENT ELIGIBLE UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH TO**
5 **PAY NO TUITION OR FEES, THE COMMISSION SHALL PAY 100% OF THE IN-COUNTY**
6 **TUITION AND FEES.**

7 **(III) 1. IF A STUDENT FAILS TO REPORT A FELONY**
8 **CONVICTION WHEN APPLYING TO AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)**
9 **OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE STUDENT SHALL REPAY ANY FUNDS SPENT BY THE**
10 **COMMISSION AND SOMERSET COUNTY ON THE STUDENT'S BEHALF.**

11 **2. IF A STUDENT IS CONVICTED OF A FELONY AFTER**
12 **ENROLLING IN AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
13 **SUBSECTION, THE STUDENT IS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE TO PAY NO TUITION OR FEES**
14 **UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH.**

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
16 1, 2017.