

Chapter 415

**(Senate Bill 204)**

AN ACT concerning

**Higher Education – Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program; specifying the purpose of the Program; requiring the Office of Student Financial Assistance in the Maryland Higher Education Commission to administer the Program; specifying certain eligibility requirements for an applicant to the Program; authorizing a certain scholarship award to be used at any eligible institution to pay for certain education expenses; requiring a scholarship recipient to maintain a certain grade point average; specifying a certain amount of time a recipient may hold a certain scholarship; requiring a scholarship recipient to work for a unit of State government in the cybersecurity field or teach in a public high school in the State in a certain education program for a certain amount of time; requiring a scholarship recipient to repay the Commission certain funds under certain circumstances; authorizing the Office to waive repayment of certain funds under certain circumstances; requiring funds for the Program to be as provided in the annual budget by the Governor; requiring the Office to adopt certain regulations; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 18–3401 through 18–3406 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 34. Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

**Article – Education**

**SUBTITLE 34. CYBERSECURITY PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

**18–3401.**

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

**(B) “ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION” MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NONPROFIT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE THAT:**

**(1) POSSESSES ~~POSSESSES~~ A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FROM THE COMMISSION; OR**

**(2) IS APPROVED UNDER OPERATION OF LAW.**

**(C) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE CYBERSECURITY PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

**18-3402.**

**(A) THERE IS A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM KNOWN AS THE CYBERSECURITY PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN THE STATE.**

**(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WHO ARE PURSUING AN EDUCATION IN PROGRAMS THAT ARE DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO CYBERSECURITY.**

**18-3403.**

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

**(B) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO THE OFFICE FOR A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IF THE INDIVIDUAL:**

**~~(1) IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;~~**

**(1) IS ELIGIBLE FOR IN-STATE TUITION;**

**(2) IS A ~~JUNIOR, SENIOR, OR GRADUATE~~ STUDENT WHO IS ENROLLED FULL-TIME AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION IN AN ~~ACCREDITED~~ APPROVED DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM THAT IS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO CYBERSECURITY;**

**(3) IS WITHIN 2 YEARS OF GRADUATION FROM THE INDIVIDUAL’S DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM;**

**(4) HAS MAINTAINED A CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 3.0 ON A 4.0 SCALE; AND**

**(5) (I) HAS NOT RECEIVED, ~~AND HAS NO PLANS TO RECEIVE,~~ A FEDERAL CYBERCORPS SCHOLARSHIP FOR SERVICE; OR**

**(II) HAS APPLIED FOR BUT HAS NOT RECEIVED A FEDERAL CYBERCORPS SCHOLARSHIP FOR SERVICE.**

(C) A SCHOLARSHIP AWARD UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE USED AT ANY ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION TO PAY FOR EDUCATION EXPENSES AS DEFINED BY THE OFFICE, INCLUDING:

- (1) TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES; AND
- (2) ROOM AND BOARD.

(D) A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SHALL MAINTAIN A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 3.0 ON A 4.0 SCALE.

(E) EACH RECIPIENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY HOLD THE AWARD FOR 2 YEARS OF FULL-TIME STUDY.

18-3404.

(A) FOR 1 YEAR FOR EACH YEAR THAT THE RECIPIENT RECEIVES A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SHALL:

- (1) WORK FOR A UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT IN THE CYBERSECURITY FIELD; OR
- (2) TEACH IN A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN THE STATE IN AN EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT IS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO CYBERSECURITY.

(B) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 18-112 OF THIS TITLE, A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SHALL REPAY THE COMMISSION THE FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IF THE RECIPIENT DOES NOT:

- (1) EARN CREDIT AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT AS DEFINED IN REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE OFFICE FOR THE PROGRAM;
- (2) COMPLETE AN ~~ACCREDITED~~ APPROVED DEGREE PROGRAM THAT IS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO CYBERSECURITY AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION; AND
- (3) PERFORM THE WORK OBLIGATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

(C) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, A RECIPIENT SHALL BEGIN REPAYMENT AT ANY TIME DURING THE PERIOD THAT THE RECIPIENT IS NO LONGER PERFORMING THE WORK OBLIGATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

**(D) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, REPAYMENT SHALL BE MADE TO THE STATE WITHIN 6 YEARS AFTER THE REPAYMENT PERIOD BEGINS AND SHALL FOLLOW A REPAYMENT SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE.**

**(E) THE OFFICE MAY WAIVE OR DEFER REPAYMENT IN THE EVENT OF DISABILITY OR EXTENDED SICKNESS THAT PREVENTS THE RECIPIENT FROM FULFILLING THE WORK OBLIGATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

**18-3405.**

**FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE COMMISSION BY THE GOVERNOR.**

**18-3406.**

**(A) THE OFFICE SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBTITLE.**

**(B) THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL:**

**(1) IDENTIFY THE PROGRAMS THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 18-3403(B)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

**(2) DEFINE THE NUMBER OF CREDITS A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT MUST EARN AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT.**

**SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2018.**

**Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2018.**