

# HOUSE BILL 16

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8lr0721

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegate Turner**

Requested: October 2, 2017

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2018

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Colleges – Maryland Community College Promise Scholarships**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship  
4 program; requiring the Office of Student Financial Assistance in the Maryland  
5 Higher Education Commission to publicize the availability of certain scholarships;  
6 requiring the Office to annually select and offer a certain scholarship award to  
7 certain applicants; establishing the eligibility requirements for receiving a certain  
8 scholarship; requiring a certain community college to assist certain applicants with  
9 a certain application on request; requiring the scholarship award to be not more than  
10 a certain amount beginning in a certain academic year; specifying how certain  
11 financial aid shall be credited to the tuition of a scholarship recipient; specifying that  
12 awards shall be provided to recipients on a first-come, first-served basis; requiring  
13 eligible applicants who do not receive a certain award to be notified and placed on a  
14 waiting list; prohibiting a certain scholarship award from being made unless a  
15 recipient signs a certain agreement; providing for the duration of the scholarship  
16 award; authorizing the Office to extend the duration of the award under certain  
17 circumstances; establishing the requirements for a recipient to hold a scholarship  
18 award; requiring that a certain scholarship award be converted into a student loan  
19 under certain circumstances; authorizing the Office to waive or defer repayment of  
20 a certain student loan under certain circumstances; requiring the Governor to  
21 include a certain annual appropriation in the State budget for the scholarship  
22 program; requiring the Commission to adopt certain regulations; requiring the  
23 Commission to report certain information to the General Assembly on or before  
24 certain dates; defining certain terms; and generally relating to community college  
25 scholarships.

26 BY adding to

27 Article – Education

28 Section 18-3401 through 18-3407 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 34.  
29 Maryland Community College Promise Scholarships”

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

5 **Article – Education**

6 **SUBTITLE 34. MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS.**

7 **18-3401.**

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

10 (B) “ANNUAL ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME” MEANS THE TOTAL OF THE  
11 COMBINED ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT’S  
12 PARENTS, OR THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT’S SPOUSE IF THE APPLICANT IS  
13 MARRIED, AS REPORTED ON THE MOST RECENT FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURN.

14 (C) “COMMUNITY COLLEGE” INCLUDES BALTIMORE CITY COMMUNITY  
15 COLLEGE.

16 (D) (1) “TUITION” MEANS THE BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL CHARGE FOR  
17 COURSES OFFERED AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

18 (2) “TUITION” INCLUDES ANY FEES FOR:

19 (I) REGISTRATION;

20 (II) APPLICATION;

21 (III) ADMINISTRATION;

22 (IV) LABORATORY WORK; AND

23 (V) OTHER MANDATORY FEES.

24 **18-3402.**

25 (A) THERE IS A PROGRAM OF MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE  
26 SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE STATE THAT ARE AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

27 (B) THE OFFICE SHALL PUBLICIZE THE AVAILABILITY OF MARYLAND

1 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS.**

2 **18-3403.**

3 (A) THE OFFICE ANNUALLY SHALL SELECT ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND  
4 OFFER A MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD TO  
5 EACH SELECTED APPLICANT TO BE USED FOR TUITION AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
6 OF THE APPLICANT'S CHOICE.

7 (B) AN APPLICANT IS ELIGIBLE FOR A MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
8 PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP IF THE APPLICANT:

9 (1) IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD  
10 IMMEDIATELY BEFORE ENROLLING IN A COMMUNITY COLLEGE;

11 (2) ENROLLS AS A CANDIDATE FOR A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE OR  
12 AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE WITHIN 2 YEARS  
13 AFTER GRADUATING FROM A HIGH SCHOOL IN THE STATE OR SUCCESSFULLY  
14 COMPLETING A GED;

15 (3) HAS EARNED AN OVERALL HIGH SCHOOL GRADE POINT AVERAGE  
16 OF AT LEAST 2.3 ON A 4.0 SCALE OR ITS EQUIVALENT;

17 (4) HAS AN ANNUAL ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME OF NOT MORE THAN:

18 (I) \$100,000 IF THE APPLICANT IS SINGLE OR RESIDES IN A  
19 SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLD; OR

20 (II) \$150,000 IF THE APPLICANT IS MARRIED OR RESIDES IN A  
21 TWO-PARENT HOUSEHOLD;

22 (5) ENROLLS IN AT LEAST 12 CREDITS PER SEMESTER AT THE  
23 COMMUNITY COLLEGE; AND

24 (6) TIMELY SUBMITS A FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT  
25 AID (FAFSA) OR ANY OTHER APPLICATIONS FOR ANY STATE OR FEDERAL STUDENT  
26 FINANCIAL AID, OTHER THAN A STUDENT LOAN, FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT MAY  
27 QUALIFY.

28 (C) (1) AN APPLICANT WHO RECEIVES ANY OTHER EDUCATIONAL  
29 GRANTS OR SCHOLARSHIPS THAT COVER THE APPLICANT'S FULL COST OF  
30 ATTENDANCE AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS INELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE AN AWARD  
31 UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

1           **(2) AN APPLICANT WHO HAS EARNED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR AN**  
2 **ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IS INELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE AN AWARD UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

3           **(D) ON REQUEST THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL ASSIST AN APPLICANT**  
4 **TO SUBMIT A FAFSA OR ANY OTHER APPLICATIONS FOR STATE OR FEDERAL**  
5 **STUDENT FINANCIAL AID.**

6 **18-3404.**

7           **(A) BEGINNING IN THE 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR, THE ANNUAL**  
8 **SCHOLARSHIP AWARD SHALL BE NOT MORE THAN \$5,000 PER RECIPIENT, OR**  
9 **ACTUAL TUITION, WHICHEVER IS LESS.**

10           **(B) (1) ANY STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, OTHER THAN A STUDENT LOAN,**  
11 **RECEIVED BY THE RECIPIENT SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE RECIPIENT'S TUITION**  
12 **BEFORE THE CALCULATION OF ANY AWARD AMOUNT PROVIDED UNDER THIS**  
13 **SUBTITLE.**

14           **(2) (I) AWARDS SHALL BE PROVIDED TO RECIPIENTS ON A**  
15 **FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.**

16                           **(II) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS WHO DO NOT RECEIVE AN AWARD**  
17 **UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE NOTIFIED AND PLACED ON A WAITING LIST.**

18           **(C) AN AWARD UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE MADE ONLY IF A RECIPIENT**  
19 **SIGNS AN AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF THE INITIAL AWARD TO:**

20                           **(1) RESIDE EXCLUSIVELY IN THE STATE AND COMMENCE FULL-TIME**  
21 **EMPLOYMENT IN THE STATE WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER COMPLETION OF THE**  
22 **VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE OR ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE;**

23                           **(2) MAINTAIN RESIDENCY AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE STATE FOR AT**  
24 **LEAST 1 YEAR FOR EACH YEAR THAT THE SCHOLARSHIP WAS AWARDED; AND**

25                           **(3) HAVE THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CONVERTED INTO A STUDENT**  
26 **LOAN PAYABLE TO THE STATE IF THE RECIPIENT FAILS TO FULFILL THE SERVICE**  
27 **OBLIGATION REQUIRED IN ITEMS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

28           **(D) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
29 **EACH RECIPIENT MAY HOLD THE AWARD UNTIL THE EARLIER OF:**

30                           **(I) 2 YEARS AFTER FIRST ENROLLING AS A CANDIDATE FOR A**

1 VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
2 IN THE STATE; OR

3 (II) THE DATE THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS AWARDED A  
4 VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE.

5 (2) THE OFFICE MAY EXTEND THE DURATION OF AN AWARD FOR AN  
6 ALLOWABLE INTERRUPTION OF STUDY IF THE RECIPIENT PROVIDES TO THE OFFICE  
7 SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE OF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES THAT PREVENT THE  
8 RECIPIENT FROM CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT.

9 (3) EACH RECIPIENT MAY HOLD THE AWARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
10 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ONLY IF THE RECIPIENT:

11 (I) CONTINUES TO BE A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;

12 (II) CONTINUES TO ENROLL IN AND COMPLETE AT LEAST 12  
13 CREDITS PER SEMESTER OR ITS EQUIVALENT AS DETERMINED BY THE OFFICE;

14 (III) MAINTAINS A CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT  
15 LEAST 2.5 ON A 4.0 SCALE OR ITS EQUIVALENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE AWARD  
16 OR, FAILING TO DO SO, PROVIDES TO THE OFFICE SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE OF  
17 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES;

18 (IV) MAKES SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD A VOCATIONAL  
19 CERTIFICATE OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE;

20 (V) CONTINUES TO MEET THE INCOME LIMITATIONS UNDER §  
21 18-3403(B)(4) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

22 (VI) CONTINUES TO TIMELY SUBMIT AN APPLICATION UNDER §  
23 18-3403(B)(6).

24 (E) (1) IF THE RECIPIENT DOES NOT PERFORM THE SERVICE OBLIGATION  
25 REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD  
26 SHALL BE CONVERTED INTO A STUDENT LOAN.

27 (2) THE OFFICE MAY WAIVE OR DEFER REPAYMENT OF THE STUDENT  
28 LOAN IF THE RECIPIENT PROVIDES SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE OF EXTENUATING  
29 CIRCUMSTANCES THAT PREVENT THE RECIPIENT FROM FULFILLING THE SERVICE  
30 OBLIGATION.

31 18-3405.

1           **THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE AN ANNUAL APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST**  
2 **\$10,000,000 IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE COMMISSION TO DISBURSE**  
3 **MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THIS**  
4 **SUBTITLE.**

5 **18-3406.**

6           **(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO**  
7 **IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

8           **(B) THE REGULATIONS SHALL INCLUDE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR**  
9 **REPAYMENT OF ANY AWARD AMOUNT THAT IS CONVERTED TO A LOAN UNDER §**  
10 **18-3404 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

11 **18-3407.**

12           **ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2020, AND EACH DECEMBER 1 THEREAFTER,**  
13 **THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE**  
14 **WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE MARYLAND**  
15 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, INCLUDING:**

16                   **(1) THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS WHO RECEIVED A MARYLAND**  
17 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR;**

18                   **(2) THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD MADE TO EACH RECIPIENT; AND**

19                   **(3) THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS, IF ANY, WHO WERE**  
20 **PLACED ON A WAITING LIST.**

21           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**  
22 **1, 2018.**