

Chapter 400

**(House Bill 1074)**

AN ACT concerning

**Public Institutions of Higher Education – Priority Registration for Members of the Armed Forces**

FOR the purpose of requiring public institutions of higher education to grant priority registration for courses to certain currently serving members and veterans of the armed forces of the United States; providing that a certain course registration priority applies only within a certain period of time after an eligible service member was on active duty; providing that a certain course registration priority does not apply to an eligible service member after a certain number of academic years; requiring public institutions of higher education to adopt certain policies; defining a certain term; and generally relating to currently serving members and veterans of the armed forces of the United States and course registration in public institutions of higher education.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 15–123

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**

**15–123.**

**(A) IN THIS SECTION, “ELIGIBLE SERVICE MEMBER” MEANS:**

**(1) A CURRENTLY SERVING MEMBER OF ANY BRANCH OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THE MILITARY RESERVES; AND**

**(2) A VETERAN OF ANY BRANCH OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THE MILITARY RESERVES, WHO HAS RECEIVED AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE OR A CERTIFICATE OF SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF MILITARY SERVICE.**

**(B) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL GRANT PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR COURSES TO AN ELIGIBLE SERVICE MEMBER.**

**(C) THE PRIORITY REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION:**

**(1) APPLIES ONLY WITHIN 15 YEARS AFTER THE ELIGIBLE SERVICE MEMBER WAS LAST ON ACTIVE DUTY; AND**

**(2) DOES NOT APPLY AFTER AN ELIGIBLE SERVICE MEMBER'S FOURTH ACADEMIC YEAR.**

**(D) EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT POLICIES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.**

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

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