

Chapter 267

(House Bill 596)

AN ACT concerning

Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial, Jean B. Cryor Memorial, and Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Scholarships – Graduate Students and Other Alterations Alterations

FOR the purpose of ~~altering the eligibility criteria for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship; authorizing the scholarship to be awarded to certain graduate students; establishing a certain time period for a graduate scholarship~~ altering the eligibility requirements for the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program by removing the residency requirement for certain categories of individuals; altering the requirement of filing for federal and State financial aid for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship; prohibiting certain scholarships from being awarded after a certain date; authorizing certain scholarships to be renewed after a certain date; altering a certain definition; and generally relating to graduate students and the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship scholarships for veterans and public safety personnel, spouses, and dependent children.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 18–601(a), (d), and (g) and 18–604
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Education
Section 18–601(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

18–601.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Disabled public safety employee” means a State or local public safety employee who sustains an injury in the line of duty that:

(i) Precludes the individual from continuing to serve or be employed as a State or local public safety employee; and

(ii) In the case of a volunteer member of a fire department or ambulance or rescue company or squad, precludes the member from continuing to be employed in the nonpublic safety occupation in which the member is engaged at the time of the injury.

(3) “Fund” means the Edward T. Conroy and Jean B. Cryor Scholarship Fund.

(4) “School employee” includes an employee of a public or nonpublic school in the State.

(5) “State or local public safety employee” means a person who is EMPLOYED IN THE STATE AS:

(i) A career or volunteer member of a:

1. Fire department;

2. Ambulance company or squad; or

3. Rescue company or squad;

(ii) A law enforcement officer;

(iii) A correctional officer; or

(iv) A member of the Maryland National Guard who was a resident of this State at the time of death.

(6) “Surviving spouse” means a person who has not remarried.

(7) “Victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks” means a Maryland resident who was killed as a result of the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the attack on the Pentagon in Virginia, or the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania.

(c) (1) The program for military and public safety personnel and their eligible dependents is the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program.

(2) The program for eligible dependents of public and nonpublic school employees is the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program.

(d) (1) A person may apply to an eligible postsecondary institution for a scholarship under this section if the person:

[(1) (i) Is a resident of Maryland at the time of application; or

(ii) Was a resident of Maryland when an event described in paragraph (3) of this subsection occurred;

[(2)] (i) 1. Is accepted for admission or enrolled in the regular undergraduate, graduate or professional program at an eligible institution; or

[(ii)] 2. Is enrolled in a 2-year terminal certificate program in which the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible institution; [and]

(II) IS AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD; AND

(III) MEETS THE OTHER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION.

(2) TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ARE REQUIRED TO BE A RESIDENT OF MARYLAND AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION OR AT THE TIME OF THE DISABLING OR FATAL EVENT:

[(3)] (i) [Is at least 16 years old and a] A son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of a member of the armed forces who:

1. Died as a result of military service after December 7, 1941;

2. Suffered a service connected 100% permanent disability after December 7, 1941; or

3. Was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action, if that occurred on or after January 1, 1960, as a result of the Vietnam conflict, and if the child was born prior to or while the parent was a prisoner of war or missing in action;

(ii) [Was a] A prisoner of war or missing in action, if that occurred on or after January 1, 1960, as a result of the Vietnam conflict and was a resident of this State at the time the person was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action;

(iii) [1. Is at least 16 years old and a son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of any State or local public safety employee killed in the line of duty; or

2. Is the surviving spouse of any State or local public safety employee killed in the line of duty;

(iv) 1. Is a disabled public safety employee;

2. Is at least 16 years old and a son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of a disabled public safety employee who sustains an injury in the line of duty that renders the public safety employee 100% disabled; or

3. Is the surviving spouse of a disabled public safety employee who sustains an injury in the line of duty that renders the public safety employee 100% disabled;

(v) Is a] A veteran, as defined under § 9-901 of the State Government Article, who:

1. Suffers a service connected disability of 25% or greater;
and

2. Has exhausted or is no longer eligible for federal veterans' educational benefits;

~~[(vi)] (IV)~~ [Is the] THE surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces who suffered a service connected 100% permanent disability;

~~[(vii)] (V)~~ [Is at least 16 years old and a] A son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of or the surviving spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

~~[(viii)] (VI)~~ [Is at least 16 years old and a] A son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of a school employee who, as a result of an act of violence:

1. Died in the line of duty; or

2. Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the school employee 100% disabled; or

~~[(ix)] (VII)~~ [Is the] THE surviving spouse of a school employee who, as a result of an act of violence:

1. Died in the line of duty; or

2. Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the school employee 100% disabled.

(3) TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE A RESIDENT OF MARYLAND AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION OR AT THE TIME OF THE DISABLING OR FATAL EVENT:

(I) 1. A SON, DAUGHTER, STEPSON, OR STEPDAUGHTER OF ANY STATE OR LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY; OR

2. THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF ANY STATE OR LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY; OR

(II) 1. A DISABLED PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE;

2. A SON, DAUGHTER, STEPSON, OR STEPDAUGHTER OF A DISABLED PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE WHO SUSTAINS AN INJURY IN THE LINE OF DUTY THAT RENDERS THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE 100% DISABLED; OR

3. THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A DISABLED PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE WHO SUSTAINS AN INJURY IN THE LINE OF DUTY THAT RENDERS THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE 100% DISABLED.

(g) (1) Each recipient of a scholarship under this section may hold the award for 5 years of full-time study or 8 years of part-time study.

(2) The number of eligible recipients under subsection [(d)(3)(v)] (D)(2)(III) of this section shall be limited to 15 each year.

(3) An award provided under subsection [(d)(3)(vii)] (D)(2)(V) of this section may not exceed the amount specified in subsection (e)(2) of this section when combined with any other scholarship received by a student based on the student's status as a child or spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

18-604.

(a) For purposes of this section, an individual served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict if the individual was a member of the uniformed services of the United States who served in:

(1) Afghanistan or contiguous air space, as defined in federal regulations, on or after October 24, 2001, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense; or

(2) Iraq or contiguous waters or air space, as defined in federal regulations, on or after March 19, 2003, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense.

(b) There is a Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship.

(c) An individual may apply to the Office for a scholarship under this section if the individual:

(1) ~~Is a resident of~~ **LIVES IN** Maryland;

(2) (i) Is accepted for admission or enrolled in the regular undergraduate ~~OR GRADUATE~~ program at an eligible institution; or

(ii) Is accepted for admission or enrolled in a 2-year terminal certificate program in which the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible institution; and

(3) (i) 1. Is a veteran, as defined under § 9-901 of the State Government Article, who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict;

2. Is an active duty member of the armed forces who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

3. Is a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States or the Maryland National Guard who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict described in subsection (a) of this section; or

(ii) Is a son, daughter, or spouse of:

1. A veteran or active duty member of the armed forces who is serving or has served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

2. A member of the reserve or Maryland National Guard who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict described in subsection (a) of this section.

(d) A scholarship awarded under this section **[shall] MAY supplement, BUT IS NOT CONTINGENT ON**, any federal education benefits for which a recipient qualifies as a result of an individual's military service or status as a dependent of a member of the armed forces or of a veteran of the armed forces.

(e) (1) Each scholarship may be used, at any eligible institution, to pay for educational expenses as defined by the Office, including:

(i) Tuition and mandatory fees; and

(ii) Room and board.

(2) The annual amount of a scholarship may not exceed 50% of the equivalent annual tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board of a resident undergraduate student ~~OR A GRADUATE STUDENT~~ at the 4-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland Global Campus and University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus, with the highest annual expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate.

(f) A scholarship recipient shall maintain a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

(g) Each recipient of a scholarship under this section may hold the award for:

~~(1) 5 years of full-time study or 8 years of part-time study FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS; OR~~

~~(2) 3 YEARS OF FULL-TIME STUDY OR 6 YEARS OF PART-TIME STUDY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS.~~

(h) (1) A scholarship recipient [shall file] **IS NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION** for federal [and] **OR** State financial aid.

(2) **SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS WHO FILE FOR FINANCIAL AID MUST FILE** by March 1 of each year.

(i) (1) The Office may not award an initial scholarship to an individual after June 30, [2020] **2030**.

(2) The Office may renew a scholarship after June 30, [2020] **2030**, if the individual received an initial scholarship before that date.

(j) A Senator or Delegate may authorize the Office to award all or a portion of the funds authorized under Subtitles 4 and 5 of this title to eligible recipients of scholarships awarded under this section.

(k) (1) Funds for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship shall be as provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the Governor.

(2) (i) In this subsection, "Fund" means the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Fund.

(ii) There is a Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Fund in the Commission.

(iii) The Commission shall administer the Fund.

(iv) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(v) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately and the Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

(vi) The Commission:

1. May accept any gift or grant from any person or corporation for the Fund;

2. Shall use any gift or grant that it receives for a scholarship from the Fund; and

3. Shall deposit any gift or grant that it receives for the Fund with the State Treasurer.

(3) (i) At the end of the fiscal year, the Commission shall prepare an annual report on the Fund that includes an accounting of all financial receipts and expenditures to and from the Fund.

(ii) The Commission shall submit a copy of the report to the General Assembly as provided under § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.