

# SENATE BILL 308

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1lr1496

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Senator Ellis**

Requested: November 1, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship –**  
3 **Revisions**

4 FOR the purpose of expanding eligibility for a Maryland Community College Promise  
5 Scholarship to an applicant who enrolls in a certain continuing education course and  
6 an individual who is unemployed or laid off under certain circumstances; providing  
7 that a certain applicant is not required to meet a certain grade point average  
8 requirement under certain circumstances; requiring the Governor to include a  
9 certain amount in the State budget for a certain fiscal year in addition to the amount  
10 that is required for Maryland Community College Promise Scholarships; and  
11 generally relating to the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Education  
14 Section 18–3603  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Education**

20 18–3603.

21 (a) (1) A student must apply annually to the Commission to receive a  
22 Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship award.

23 (2) The Office annually shall select eligible applicants and offer a Maryland  
24 Community College Promise Scholarship award to each selected applicant to be used for

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 tuition at a community college of the applicant's choice.

2 (b) An applicant is eligible for a Maryland Community College Promise  
3 Scholarship if the applicant:

4 (1) Is eligible for in-State tuition;

5 (2) **(I)** Enrolls as a candidate for a vocational certificate, a certificate, or  
6 an associate's degree or participates in a registered apprenticeship after graduating from a  
7 high school or successfully completing a GED in the State[:

8 (i) Except as provided in items (ii) and (iii) of this item, at the  
9 community college located in the county or, in the case of a regional community college, in  
10 the region, where the applicant lives;

11 (ii) If the community college located in the county or region where  
12 the applicant lives does not offer the degree or certification program in which the applicant  
13 wants to enroll, then at any community college in the State that offers the program; or

14 (iii) At a community college in the State that has an on-campus  
15 residential facility for students];

16 **(II) ENROLLS IN A NONCREDIT CONTINUING EDUCATION**  
17 **COURSE FOCUSED ON ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES OR CAREER DEVELOPMENT;**  
18 **OR**

19 **(III) ENROLLS IN A COURSE DUE TO BEING UNEMPLOYED OR**  
20 **LAI D OFF FROM EMPLOYMENT THROUGH NO FAULT OF THE INDIVIDUAL;**

21 (3) **[Has] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D)(2) OF THIS**  
22 **SECTION, HAS** earned a cumulative grade point average of:

23 (i) For an initial award, at least 2.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent  
24 at the end of the first semester or the end of the year of the senior year in high school; or

25 (ii) While enrolled at a community college in the State, at least 2.5  
26 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent;

27 (4) Has an annual adjusted gross income of not more than:

28 (i) \$100,000 if the applicant is single or resides in a single-parent  
29 household; or

30 (ii) \$150,000 if the applicant is married or resides in a two-parent  
31 household;

1 (5) (i) Enrolls in:

2 1. At least 12 credits per semester at the community college;  
3 [or]

4 2. A sequence of credit or noncredit courses that leads to  
5 licensure or certification; or

6 **3. A NONCREDIT CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE**  
7 **FOCUSED ON ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES OR CAREER DEVELOPMENT; OR**

8 (ii) Participates in a registered apprenticeship program; and

9 (6) (i) Timely submits a Free Application for Federal Student Aid  
10 (FAFSA) or any other applications for any State or federal student financial aid, other than  
11 a student loan, for which the applicant may qualify; or

12 (ii) Is ineligible to submit a FAFSA, qualifies for in-State tuition  
13 under § 15–106.8 of this article, and timely submits an application for any State student  
14 financial aid, other than a student loan, for which the applicant may qualify.

15 **(C) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS**  
16 **SUBSECTION, AN APPLICANT SHALL BE ENROLLED AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
17 **LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OR, IN THE CASE OF A REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE,**  
18 **IN THE REGION, WHERE THE APPLICANT LIVES.**

19 **(2) IF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OR**  
20 **REGION WHERE THE APPLICANT LIVES DOES NOT OFFER THE DEGREE OR**  
21 **CERTIFICATION PROGRAM IN WHICH THE APPLICANT WANTS TO ENROLL, THEN THE**  
22 **APPLICANT MAY ENROLL IN ANY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE THAT OFFERS**  
23 **THE PROGRAM.**

24 **(3) AN APPLICANT MAY ENROLL AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE**  
25 **STATE THAT HAS AN ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL FACILITY FOR STUDENTS.**

26 [(c)] (D) (1) An applicant who receives any other educational grants or  
27 scholarships that cover the applicant's full cost of attendance at the community college is  
28 ineligible to receive an award under this subtitle.

29 (2) An applicant who **IS ENROLLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION**  
30 **(B)(2)(I) OF THIS SECTION AND** has earned a bachelor's degree or an associate's degree is  
31 ineligible to receive an award under this subtitle.

32 **(3) AN APPLICANT WHO IS ENROLLED IN A CONTINUING EDUCATION**  
33 **COURSE OR ENROLLED IN A COURSE DUE TO BEING UNEMPLOYED OR LAID OFF**

1 FROM EMPLOYMENT THROUGH NO FAULT OF THE INDIVIDUAL, IN ACCORDANCE  
2 WITH SUBSECTION (B)(2)(II) AND (III) OF THIS SECTION, RESPECTIVELY, IS NOT  
3 SUBJECT TO THE GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN  
4 SUBSECTION (B)(3)(I) OF THIS SECTION FOR AN INITIAL AWARD.

5 [(d)] (E) On request the community college shall assist an applicant to submit a  
6 FAFSA or any other applications for State or federal student financial aid.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, In addition to the amount the  
8 Governor is required to include in the budget bill for fiscal year 2023 for Maryland  
9 Community College Promise Scholarship awards under § 18–3605 of the Education Article,  
10 the Governor shall include in the budget bill for fiscal year 2023 a general fund  
11 appropriation of \$3,500,000.

12 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
13 1, 2021.