

SENATE BILL 501

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CF 2lr2162

By: **Senators Elfreth, Pinsky, Rosapepe, and Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Higher Education Commission – Procedures – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to follow certain
4 procedures for each open meeting of the Commission; requiring the Office of Student
5 Financial Assistance within the Commission, on or before a certain date each year,
6 to notify each student of the Office’s decision regarding the student’s application for
7 a Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Award; and generally
8 relating to alterations to procedures of the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Education
11 Section 11–105(w)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

15 Article – Education
16 Section 18–301(a)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

20 Article – Education
21 Section 18–307
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 11-105.

2 **(W) (1) EACH OPEN MEETING OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE MADE**
3 **AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH LIVE VIDEO STREAMING.**

4 **(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL MAKE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON THE**
5 **INTERNET A COMPLETE, UNEDITED ARCHIVED VIDEO RECORDING OF EACH OPEN**
6 **MEETING FOR A MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF THE MEETING.**

7 18-301.

8 (a) There is a Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Program of Educational Excellence
9 Awards in this State that are awarded under this subtitle.

10 18-307.

11 (a) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the Office shall compile
12 and certify lists for the entire State that rank applicants by financial need.

13 (b) All funds for annual initial grants shall be awarded from the statewide list on
14 the basis of greatest financial need.

15 (c) **(1) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15 EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL SEND A**
16 **NOTIFICATION TO EACH INDIVIDUAL WHO APPLIED FOR A DELEGATE HOWARD P.**
17 **RAWLINGS EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD INDICATING:**

18 **(I) WHETHER OR NOT THE STUDENT IS A RECIPIENT OF AN**
19 **AWARD; AND**

20 **(II) IF APPLICABLE, THE AMOUNT AWARDED TO THE STUDENT.**

21 **(2)** On or before May 1 of each year, the Office shall send each Senator and
22 each Delegate a list of individuals in each legislative district to whom Delegate Howard P.
23 Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards are awarded.

24 (d) (1) (i) If State funds are available for this purpose, institutions of
25 higher education in the State may provide Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational
26 Excellence Awards to students who otherwise meet the requirements for receiving a
27 Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Award but who apply after the
28 March 1 deadline or have other extenuating circumstances.

29 (ii) Each year the Commission shall transfer at least \$2 million of
30 the funds available under § 18-107(b) of this title for the purposes of this subsection.

31 (2) The Commission shall:

1 (i) Establish guidelines for the awarding of Delegate Howard P.
2 Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards by the institutions of higher education to the
3 students; and

4 (ii) Adopt regulations necessary for the implementation of this
5 subsection.

6 (3) (i) The Commission shall allocate available funds to institutions of
7 higher education based on the proportion of State residents enrolled at each institution who
8 receive federal Pell Grants.

9 (ii) An institution of higher education that receives funds under this
10 paragraph shall provide the Commission with an annual audit describing the disposition
11 of the funds.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
13 1, 2022.