
By: Senators Trotter, Pinsky, and Young

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 1996

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Early Reading Readiness Grant Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Program of Early Reading Readiness Grants to be
4 awarded to certain students who meet certain qualifications; requiring the State
5 Scholarship Administration to publicize the grant program; establishing certain
6 qualifications for receiving a grant; establishing the maximum amount for each grant
7 awarded under this program; authorizing the grants to be used at certain
8 institutions of higher education in the State; establishing the duration of each
9 award; and generally relating to the establishment of an Early Reading Readiness
10 Grant Program.

11 BY adding to

12 Article - Education
13 Section 18-1801 through 18-1806, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle
14 18. Early Reading Readiness Grant Program"
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Education**

20 SUBTITLE 18. EARLY READING READINESS GRANT PROGRAM.

21 18-1801.

22 (A) THERE IS A PROGRAM OF EARLY READING READINESS GRANTS IN THIS
23 STATE THAT ARE AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

24 (B) EARLY READING READINESS GRANTS SHALL BE AWARDED TO EVERY
25 STUDENT WHO MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS SET FORTH IN § 18-1803 OF THIS
26 SUBTITLE TO ENSURE THAT 100 PERCENT OF EDUCATIONAL COSTS, AS PROVIDED IN
27 § 18-1804(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE, SHALL BE PAID.

2

1 18-1802.

2 THE STATE SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATION SHALL PUBLICIZE THE
3 AVAILABILITY OF EARLY READING READINESS GRANTS.

4 18-1803.

5 (A) EACH RECIPIENT OF AN EARLY READING READINESS GRANT SHALL:

6 (1) BE ABLE TO READ AT THE TIME THE STUDENT ENTERS THE FIRST
7 GRADE;

8 (2) HAVE COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL IN THIS STATE WITH A GRADE
9 POINT AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 2.5 ON A 4.0 SCALE OR ITS EQUIVALENT;

10 (3) BE ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION IN THE REGULAR UNDERGRADUATE
11 PROGRAM AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION OR BE ENROLLED IN A 2-YEAR ASSOCIATE
12 DEGREE PROGRAM IN WHICH THE COURSE WORK IS ACCEPTABLE FOR TRANSFER
13 CREDIT FOR AN ACCREDITED BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM IN AN ELIGIBLE
14 INSTITUTION;

15 (4) BEGIN COLLEGE AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION IN THIS STATE
16 WITHIN 1 YEAR OF COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL;

17 (5) ENROLL IN COLLEGE AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT;

18 (6) HAVE AN ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME BELOW A POVERTY INDEX
19 DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION; AND

20 (7) SATISFY ANY ADDITIONAL CRITERIA THE COMMISSION MAY
21 ESTABLISH.

22 (B) FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING WHETHER A STUDENT MEETS THE
23 REQUIREMENT SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE
24 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CERTIFYING WHETHER A
25 STUDENT IS ABLE TO READ AT THE TIME THE STUDENT ENTERS THE FIRST GRADE.

26 18-1804.

27 (A) ANY APPLICANT WHO FULFILLS THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN §
28 18-1803 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL RECEIVE AN EARLY READING READINESS GRANT.

29 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE
30 AMOUNT OF THE EARLY READING READINESS GRANT SHALL BE EQUAL TO THE
31 ANNUAL EXPENSES NECESSARY TO ATTEND AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
32 EDUCATION IN THE STATE AND SHALL INCLUDE TUITION, FEES, ROOM, AND BOARD.

33 (2) THE AMOUNT OF AN EARLY READING READINESS GRANT MAY NOT
34 EXCEED THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL EXPENSES OF A FULL-TIME RESIDENT
35 UNDERGRADUATE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK.

3

1 18-1805.

2 AN EARLY READING READINESS GRANT MAY BE USED:

3 (1) AT A DEGREE GRANTING INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR
4 AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION WITH AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES
5 TRANSFER CREDIT FOR AN APPROVED BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM; AND

6 (2) FOR EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES, INCLUDING:

7 (I) TUITION AND FEES; AND

8 (II) ROOM AND BOARD.

9 18-1806.

10 (A) EACH RECIPIENT OF AN EARLY READING READINESS GRANT MAY HOLD
11 THE AWARD FOR 5 YEARS IF THE RECIPIENT:

12 (1) CONTINUES TO BE A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE;

13 (2) CONTINUES TO BE A FULL-TIME STUDENT AT AN ELIGIBLE
14 INSTITUTION AND TAKES AT LEAST 12 SEMESTER HOURS OF COURSES EACH
15 SEMESTER, OR ITS EQUIVALENT AS DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION;

16 (3) IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE INSTITUTION, IS MAKING REASONABLE
17 PROGRESS TOWARD A DEGREE; AND

18 (4) MAINTAINS THE STANDARDS OF THE INSTITUTION.

19 (B) EACH RECIPIENT OF AN EARLY READING READINESS GRANT WHO IS
20 ENROLLED IN AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM AS PERMITTED IN § 18-1803 OF THIS
21 SUBTITLE MAY HOLD THE AWARD FOR 3 YEARS IF THE SAME CONDITIONS OF
22 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION ARE MET.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 1996.