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By: **Chairman, Ways and Means Committee (Departmental - Higher Education Commission)**

Introduced and read first time: March 5, 1999

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Educational Excellence Awards - Economic**  
3 **Development Grants**

4 FOR the purpose of allowing qualified recipients of an Educational Excellence Award  
5 to also receive awards under the Economic Development Student Assistance  
6 Grant Program and the Maryland Science and Technology Scholarships  
7 Program; requiring each recipient of a Guaranteed Access Grant to have  
8 satisfied a certain grade point average requirement; establishing a minimum  
9 award under the Educational Excellence Award Program; clarifying that  
10 continuation of the award is contingent upon a recipient's making satisfactory  
11 progress toward a degree and satisfying the standards of the institution;  
12 amending the Economic Development Assistance Grants Program where  
13 necessary to conform with this purpose; and generally relating to financial  
14 assistance for higher education.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article - Education  
17 Section 18-303(a) and (c)(1), 18-304(b)(1), 18-306, and 18-701(d)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

22 **Article - Education**

23 18-303.

24 (a) Except for AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANT  
25 AWARDED UNDER § 18-701 OF THIS TITLE, a Distinguished Scholar Award under §  
26 18-1101 of this [article] TITLE, AND A MARYLAND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
27 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER § 18-2001 OF THIS TITLE, the recipient of an  
28 Educational Excellence Award may not hold any other scholarship awarded under  
29 this title.

1 (c) Each recipient of a Guaranteed Access Grant shall:

2 (1) Have [completed high school in this State with] ATTAINED a grade  
3 point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent AT THE END OF THE FIRST  
4 SEMESTER OF THE SENIOR YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL AND HAVE COMPLETED HIGH  
5 SCHOOL IN THIS STATE or, failing to do so, on the recommendation of the recipient's  
6 high school principal, provide evidence satisfactory to the State Scholarship  
7 Administration of extenuating circumstances;

8 18-304.

9 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an  
10 Educational Excellence Award may be awarded in \$100 increments and the award for  
11 a single year may not be less than [\$200] \$400 or more than \$3,000.

12 18-306.

13 (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, each recipient of  
14 an Educational Excellence Award may hold the award for 5 years if the recipient:

15 (1) Continues to be a resident of this State;

16 (2) Continues to be a full-time student at an eligible institution and  
17 takes at least 12 semester hours of courses each semester, or its equivalent as  
18 determined by the Administration;

19 (3) In the judgment of the institution, is making satisfactory progress  
20 toward a degree; and

21 (4) Maintains the standards of the institution.

22 (b) Each recipient of an Educational Excellence Award who is enrolled in an  
23 associate degree program as permitted in § 18-303(b)(1) of this subtitle may hold the  
24 award for 3 years if the same conditions of subsection (a) of this section are met.

25 (c) Each recipient of an Educational Excellence Award may hold the award for  
26 a 5th year if the recipient:

27 (1) Is enrolled in an academic program that, as determined by the  
28 institution, requires 5 years to complete; or

29 (2) Provides evidence, satisfactory to the State Scholarship  
30 Administration, of extenuating financial, academic, or other circumstances that  
31 prevent the recipient from completing the academic program in 4 years.

32 (d) [Each recipient of an Educational Excellence Award shall, upon  
33 completion of the freshman year, have achieved a grade point average of at least 2.0  
34 on a 4.0 scale, and maintain this minimum grade point average throughout the  
35 remainder of the award or, failing to do so, provide evidence satisfactory to the State  
36 Scholarship Administration of extenuating circumstances.

1 (e) In addition to the requirements for renewal of an Educational Excellence  
2 Award under subsections (a), (b), AND (c)[, and (d)] of this section, a recipient of a  
3 Guaranteed Access Grant shall hold the grant for not more than 5 consecutive years  
4 or, failing to do so, provide evidence satisfactory to the State Scholarship  
5 Administration of extenuating circumstances.

6 18-701.

7 (d) [A] EXCEPT FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS GRANTED UNDER  
8 § 18-301 OF THIS TITLE, A recipient of a grant under this subtitle may not receive any  
9 other form of State-sponsored financial assistance.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
11 effect October 1, 1999.