
By: **Delegates Eckardt, Guns, Walkup, Schisler, McHale, Cole, Cane,
Conway, Mitchell, Rudolph, W. Baker, McClenahan, and Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2001

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Maryland HOPE Scholarships - Eligibility**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the eligibility for Maryland HOPE Scholarships to
4 include certain nursing students; establishing eligibility criteria for nursing
5 students for the Maryland HOPE Scholarship program; requiring nursing
6 student scholarship recipients to perform the service obligation by obtaining
7 certain employment; making a certain stylistic change; and generally relating to
8 eligibility for the Maryland HOPE Scholarship program.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article - Education
11 Section 18-2301, 18-2302, 18-2304(a), and 18-2306(e)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article - Education
16 Section 18-2303(b) and 18-2306(d)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Education**

22 18-2301.

23 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

24 (b) "Eligible institution" means a public or private institution of higher
25 education in this State that possesses a certificate of approval from the Maryland
26 Higher Education Commission.

1 (c) "Regular undergraduate program" means an academic program of study in
2 an institution of higher education at or below the baccalaureate level leading to either
3 an associate's degree or bachelor's degree.

4 (d) "Service obligation" means full-time employment within the State.

5 18-2302.

6 (a) There is a program of Maryland HOPE Scholarships in this State that are
7 awarded under this subtitle.

8 (b) The Administration shall publicize the availability of Maryland HOPE
9 Scholarships.

10 18-2303.

11 (b) Each recipient of a Maryland HOPE Scholarship shall:

12 (1) (I) Be accepted for admission in a regular undergraduate program
13 at an eligible institution in the State;

14 [(2)] (II) Be a resident of the State;

15 [(3)] (III) Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0
16 scale or its equivalent in core curriculum courses as calculated and indicated on the
17 high school transcript after the first semester of the senior year of high school;

18 [(4)] (IV) Begin attending an eligible institution within 2 years of
19 completing high school or, failing to do so, provide evidence satisfactory to the
20 Administration of extenuating circumstances;

21 [(5)] (V) Enroll as a full-time student at an eligible institution;

22 [(6)] (VI) Have an annual total family income of \$80,000 or below;

23 [(7)] (VII) Accept any other conditions attached to the award; and

24 [(8)] (VIII) Satisfy any additional criteria the [Maryland Higher
25 Education] Commission may establish; OR

26 (2) (I) BE ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION IN AN UNDERGRADUATE
27 NURSING PROGRAM AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION IN THE STATE;

28 (II) BE A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;

29 (III) ENROLL AS A FULL-TIME NURSING STUDENT AT AN ELIGIBLE
30 INSTITUTION;

31 (IV) HAVE AN ANNUAL TOTAL FAMILY INCOME OF \$80,000 OR
32 BELOW;

1 (V) ACCEPT ANY OTHER CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE AWARD;
2 AND

3 (VI) SATISFY ANY ADDITIONAL CRITERIA THE COMMISSION MAY
4 ESTABLISH.

5 18-2304.

6 (a) The annual scholarship award shall be in the amount of \$1,000 for a
7 student enrolled at a 2-year eligible institution or \$3,000 for a student enrolled in a
8 4-year eligible institution.

9 18-2306.

10 (d) A recipient of an award made under this section shall receive the award for
11 each year indicated in which the recipient is eligible if the recipient signs an
12 agreement at the time of the initial award to:

13 (1) (I) Commence [employment in the State] PERFORMING THE
14 SERVICE OBLIGATION within 1 year after completion of undergraduate studies for 1
15 year for each year that the scholarship was awarded; OR

16 (II) IF THE RECIPIENT IS ENROLLED IN AN UNDERGRADUATE
17 NURSING PROGRAM, COMMENCE PERFORMING THE SERVICE OBLIGATION AS A
18 REGISTERED NURSE OR A LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER
19 COMPLETION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM FOR 1 YEAR FOR EACH
20 YEAR THAT THE SCHOLARSHIP WAS AWARDED; and

21 (2) Repay the State the amounts awarded under this subtitle as set forth
22 in § 18-112 of this title if the recipient does not:

23 (i) Satisfy the degree requirements of the eligible institution or
24 fulfill other requirements as provided in this subtitle; and

25 (ii) Perform the service obligation [for 1 year for each year that the
26 recipient has a scholarship awarded under this subtitle] AS SPECIFIED UNDER ITEM
27 (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

28 (e) The service obligation begins after graduation and cannot be fulfilled prior
29 to graduation from an eligible institution.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 June 1, 2001.