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By: **Delegate Healey**  
Introduced and read first time: February 23, 2001  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 FOR the purpose of altering the minimum grade point average to be eligible for the  
4 Maryland HOPE Scholarship; altering the minimum grade point average that a  
5 recipient of a Maryland HOPE Scholarship must maintain under certain  
6 circumstances to remain eligible for the scholarship; and generally relating to  
7 eligibility for the Maryland HOPE Scholarship.

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

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

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

20 **Article - Education**

21 18-2302.

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

24 18-2303.

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

- 1 (1) Be accepted for admission in a regular undergraduate program at an  
2 eligible institution in the State;
- 3 (2) Be a resident of the State;
- 4 (3) Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least [3.0] 2.5 on a 4.0  
5 scale or its equivalent in core curriculum courses as calculated and indicated on the  
6 high school transcript after the first semester of the senior year of high school;
- 7 (4) Begin attending an eligible institution within 2 years of completing  
8 high school or, failing to do so, provide evidence satisfactory to the Administration of  
9 extenuating circumstances;
- 10 (5) Enroll as a full-time student at an eligible institution;
- 11 (6) Have an annual total family income of \$80,000 or below;
- 12 (7) Accept any other conditions attached to the award; and
- 13 (8) Satisfy any additional criteria the Maryland Higher Education  
14 Commission may establish.

15 18-2306.

16 (a) Each recipient of a Maryland HOPE Scholarship may hold the award for 5  
17 years if the recipient:

- 18 (1) Continues to be a resident of the State;
- 19 (2) Continues to be a full-time student at an eligible institution in the  
20 State and takes at least 12 semester hours of courses each semester or its equivalent  
21 as determined by the Administration;
- 22 (3) Upon completion of the freshman year, has achieved a cumulative  
23 grade point average of at least [3.0] 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, and maintains this minimum  
24 cumulative grade point average throughout the remainder of the award, or failing to  
25 do so, provides evidence satisfactory to the Administration of extenuating  
26 circumstances;
- 27 (4) In the judgment of the institution, is making satisfactory progress  
28 toward a degree; and
- 29 (5) Maintains the standards of the institution.

30 (b) Each recipient of a Maryland HOPE Scholarship who is enrolled in an  
31 associate degree program as permitted in this subtitle may hold the award for 3 years  
32 if the same conditions of subsection (a) of this section are met.

33 (c) Each recipient of a Maryland HOPE Scholarship who transfers from a  
34 2-year eligible institution to a 4-year eligible institution may hold the award for a  
35 total of 5 years, including the years at both the 2-year eligible institution and the

1 4-year eligible institution, if the same conditions of subsection (a) of this section are  
2 met.

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

6 (1) Commence employment in the State within 1 year after completion of  
7 undergraduate studies for 1 year for each year that the scholarship was awarded; and

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

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

12 (ii) Perform the service obligation for 1 year for each year that the  
13 recipient has a scholarship awarded under this subtitle.

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

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