
By: **Delegate Hixson**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2002

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Student Financial Assistance - Eligibility**

3 FOR the purpose of allowing a recipient of certain State scholarships, grants, or loans
4 to hold certain other State scholarships, grants, or loans, subject to certain
5 conditions; requiring a student who holds multiple State scholarships, grants, or
6 loans that have a service obligation to fulfill the requirements of each of the
7 service obligations, subject to a certain condition; repealing certain prohibitions
8 on a recipient's holding certain other State scholarships and grants; and
9 generally relating to eligibility requirements for certain State student financial
10 assistance.

11 BY adding to

12 Article - Education
13 Section 18-113
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2001 Replacement Volume)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

17 Article - Education
18 Section 18-303, 18-701, and 18-2303
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2001 Replacement Volume)

21 BY repealing

22 Article - Education
23 Section 18-2208
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2001 Replacement Volume)

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

1

Article - Education

2 18-113.

3 (A) EXCEPT FOR THE GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT AWARDED UNDER § 18-301
4 OF THIS TITLE, A STUDENT MAY HOLD A SCHOLARSHIP, GRANT, OR LOAN ISSUED
5 UNDER THIS TITLE ALONG WITH ANY OTHER SCHOLARSHIP, GRANT, OR LOAN
6 ISSUED UNDER THIS TITLE IF:

7 (1) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ARE MET FOR EACH SCHOLARSHIP,
8 GRANT, OR LOAN RECEIVED; AND

9 (2) THE TOTAL OF ALL SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, OR LOANS RECEIVED
10 DOES NOT EXCEED:

11 (I) THE STUDENT'S TOTAL COST OF EDUCATION AS CERTIFIED BY
12 THE INSTITUTION THE STUDENT IS ATTENDING; AND

13 (II) THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL EXPENSE OF A FULL-TIME
14 RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK.

15 (B) A STUDENT WHO HOLDS MULTIPLE SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, OR LOANS
16 ISSUED UNDER THIS TITLE THAT HAVE A SERVICE OBLIGATION REQUIREMENT:

17 (1) MUST FULFILL THE TERMS OF EACH SERVICE OBLIGATION; AND

18 (2) MAY NOT FULFILL THE SERVICE OBLIGATIONS CONCURRENTLY.

19 18-303.

20 (a) [The recipient of an Educational Excellence Award may not hold any other
21 scholarship awarded under this title except for:

22 (1) An Economic Development Student Assistance Grant awarded under
23 § 18-701 of this title;

24 (2) A Distinguished Scholar Award under § 18-1101 of this title;

25 (3) A Maryland Science and Technology Scholarship awarded under §
26 18-2001 of this title;

27 (4) A Maryland Teacher Scholarship awarded under § 18-2202 of this
28 title; and

29 (5) A Maryland HOPE Scholarship awarded under § 18-2302 of this
30 title.

31 (b)] Each recipient of an Educational Excellence Award shall:

32 (1) Be accepted for admission in the regular undergraduate program at
33 an eligible institution or be enrolled in a two-year associate degree program in which

1 the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate
2 program in an eligible institution;

3 (2) Be a resident of this State;

4 (3) Demonstrate to the State Scholarship Administration a definite
5 financial need; and

6 (4) Accept any other conditions attached to the award.

7 [(c)] (B) Each recipient of a Guaranteed Access Grant shall:

8 (1) Have attained a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or
9 its equivalent at the end of the first semester of the senior year in high school and
10 have completed high school or, failing to do so, on the recommendation of the
11 recipient's high school principal, provide evidence satisfactory to the State
12 Scholarship Administration of extenuating circumstances;

13 (2) Begin college within 1 year of completing high school or, failing to do
14 so, provide evidence satisfactory to the State Scholarship Administration of
15 extenuating circumstances;

16 (3) Be under the age of 22 years at the time of receiving the first award;

17 (4) Have successfully completed a college preparatory program in high
18 school;

19 (5) Enroll in college as a full-time student;

20 (6) Have an annual family income below a poverty index determined by
21 the Commission; and

22 (7) Satisfy any additional criteria the Commission may establish.

23 18-701.

24 (a) There is a program of Economic Development Student Assistance Grants
25 awarded under this subtitle for students who pledge to work in fields of geographic or
26 critical shortage in this State upon completion of their studies.

27 (b) The purpose of the Program is to:

28 (1) Provide financial assistance to students enrolled at institutions of
29 higher education in the State; and

30 (2) Address the economic development needs of the State.

31 (c) Subject to subsection (c-1) of this section, a recipient of an Economic
32 Development Student Assistance Grant under this subtitle shall:

33 (1) Be a resident of the State;

1 (2) Be selected by the Administration from qualified applicants based on
2 standards established and approved by the Commission;

3 (3) Sign a letter of intent to enroll at an eligible institution in the State
4 in an eligible program as specified for each field in which there is a geographic or
5 critical shortage in this State as provided in this subtitle;

6 (4) Furnish a guaranteed promissory note to the Commission or its
7 designee with security satisfactory to the Commission;

8 (5) After completion of studies in an eligible program, perform the
9 service obligation as specified for each field in which there is a geographic or critical
10 shortage as provided in this subtitle; and

11 (6) Satisfy any additional criteria the Commission may establish.

12 (c-1) The provisions of subsection (c)(4) of this section may be waived by the
13 Commission when a recipient is undergoing extraordinary circumstances as
14 determined by the Commission.

15 (d) [(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a recipient of
16 a grant under this subtitle may not receive any other form of State-sponsored
17 financial assistance.

18 (2) (i) A recipient of a grant under this subtitle may receive an
19 Educational Excellence Award granted under § 18-301 of this title.

20 (ii) A recipient of a nursing scholarship awarded under § 18-706 of
21 this subtitle also may receive:

22 1. A senatorial scholarship awarded under Subtitle 4 of this
23 title;

24 2. A delegate scholarship awarded under Subtitle 5 of this
25 title; and

26 3. A distinguished scholar award granted under Subtitle 11
27 of this title.

28 (e)] (1) The recipient of an Economic Development Student Assistance Grant
29 shall repay the Commission the funds received as set forth in § 18-112 of this title if
30 the recipient does not:

31 (i) Complete the specified degree, attain the licensure or
32 certification required, or fulfill other requirements as provided in this subtitle; and

33 (ii) Perform the service obligation as specified in each section of
34 this subtitle for 1 year for each year that the recipient has a grant awarded under this
35 subtitle.

1 (2) (i) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Administration
2 shall waive the repayment of the grant award at the rate of 1 year for each year that
3 the recipient performs the service obligation.

4 (ii) A recipient shall begin repayment at any time during the period
5 that the recipient is no longer performing the service obligation.

6 (3) A recipient may delay repayment as long as the recipient remains a
7 student enrolled at least part time in a degree-granting program.

8 (4) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, repayment shall be
9 made to the State within 6 years after the repayment period begins and shall follow
10 a repayment schedule established by the Administration.

11 (5) The Administration may waive or defer repayment in the event of
12 disability or extended sickness which prevents the recipient from fulfilling the service
13 obligation required under this subtitle.

14 [(f)] (E) The repayment of the grant award by a recipient who is not yet
15 required by the provisions of this subtitle to begin repayment of the award and who
16 accepts employment that fulfills the service obligation shall be forgiven, for the
17 purposes of this subtitle, at a rate of 1 year for each year that the recipient performs
18 the service obligation.

19 [(g)] (F) The Commission may adopt guidelines or regulations necessary to
20 implement this subtitle.

21 [(h)] (G) (1) The Commission may restructure an existing Economic
22 Development Student Assistance Grants Program, as necessary, to address the
23 existing critical shortages under the Program.

24 (2) The Commission shall adopt regulations necessary to implement any
25 changes under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

26 (3) The Commission shall notify the General Assembly of any changes
27 implemented under this subsection.

28 [(i)] (H) Funds for the Economic Development Student Assistance Grants
29 Program shall be as provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the
30 Governor.

31 [18-2208.

32 Except for an Educational Excellence Award under § 18-301 of this article or a
33 Distinguished Scholar Award under § 18-1101 of this article, the recipient of a
34 Maryland Teacher Scholarship may not hold any other scholarship awarded under
35 this title.]

1 18-2303.

2 [(a) Except for an Educational Excellence Award under § 18-301 of this title or
3 a Distinguished Scholar Award under § 18-1101 of this title, the recipient of a
4 Maryland HOPE Scholarship may not hold any other scholarship awarded under this
5 title.

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

7 (1) Be accepted for admission in a regular undergraduate program at an
8 eligible institution in the State;

9 (2) Be a resident of the State;

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

13 (4) Begin attending an eligible institution within 2 years of completing
14 high school or, failing to do so, provide evidence satisfactory to the Administration of
15 extenuating circumstances;

16 (5) Enroll as a full-time student at an eligible institution;

17 (6) Have an annual total family income of \$95,000 or below;

18 (7) Accept any other conditions attached to the award; and

19 (8) Satisfy any additional criteria the Maryland Higher Education
20 Commission may establish.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2002.