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By: Chairman, Appropriations Committee (Departmental - Human Resources)

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2002 Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 3

Higher Education - Waiver of Tuition and Fees - Clarifying Foster Care Recipients

4 FOR the purpose of clarifying the definition of a foster care recipient who may be

- 5 eligible for waiver of certain tuition and fees, to include certain individuals who
- 6 resided in foster care or group homes at the time the individual graduated from
- 7 high school or successfully completed a certain examination; and generally
- 8 relating to the waiver of tuition and fees for foster care recipients.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

- 10 Article Education
- 11 Section 15-106.1
- 12 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 13 (2001 Replacement Volume)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16

Article - Education

17 15-106.1.

18 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

19 (2) "Foster care recipient" means an individual who:

20 (i) Resided in a foster care OR GROUP home in the State [on or

21 after the individual's 18th birthday] AT THE TIME THE INDIVIDUAL GRADUATED

22 FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A GENERAL EQUIVALENCY

23 DEVELOPMENT EXAMINATION (GED); or

24 (ii) 1. Resided in a foster care home in the State on the 25 individual's 14th birthday; and

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Was adopted out of a foster care home after the

1
 2 individual's 14th birthday.

3 (3) (i) "Tuition" means the charges imposed by a public institution of 4 higher education for enrollment at the institution.

5 (ii) "Tuition" includes charges for registration and all fees required 6 as a condition of enrollment.

7 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a foster care 8 recipient is exempt from paying tuition at a public institution of higher education if:

9 (i) The foster care recipient is enrolled at the institution on or 10 before the date that the foster care recipient reaches the age of 21 years;

11(ii)The foster care recipient is enrolled as a candidate for an12Associate's degree or a Bachelor's degree; and

13(iii)The foster care recipient has filed for federal and State financial14 aid by March 1 each year.

15 (2) If a foster care recipient receives a scholarship or grant for

16 postsecondary study and is enrolled before the recipient's 21st birthday as a candidate

17 for an Associate's degree or Bachelor's degree at a public institution for higher

18 education, the foster care recipient may not be required to pay the difference between

 $19\;$ the amount of the scholarship or grant and the amount of the tuition.

2.

20 (3) A foster care recipient who is exempt from tuition under this section 21 continues to be exempt until the earlier of:

22 (i) 5 years after first enrolling as a candidate for an Associate's
23 degree or a Bachelor's degree at a public institution of higher education in the State;
24 or

25(ii)The date that the foster care recipient is awarded a Bachelor's26 degree.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take 28 effect July 1, 2002.

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