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

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2002

Assigned to: Appropriations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 27, 2002

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Waiver of Tuition and Fees - Clarifying Foster Care**  
3 **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 limit eligibility to individuals  
6 placed in a foster care home by the Maryland Department of Human Resources  
7 and to include certain individuals who resided in foster care ~~or group~~ homes at  
8 the time the individual graduated from high school or successfully completed a  
9 certain examination; and generally relating to the waiver of tuition and fees for  
10 foster care recipients.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article - Education  
13 Section 15-106.1  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2001 Replacement Volume)

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

18 **Article - Education**

19 15-106.1.

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

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

1 (I) WAS PLACED IN A FOSTER CARE HOME BY THE MARYLAND  
 2 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES; AND

3 ~~(i)~~ (II) 1. Resided in a foster care ~~OR GROUP~~ home in the State  
 4 [on or after the individual's 18th birthday] AT THE TIME THE INDIVIDUAL  
 5 GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A GENERAL  
 6 EQUIVALENCY DEVELOPMENT EXAMINATION (GED); or

7 ~~(ii)~~ 1. A. Resided in a foster care home in the State on the  
 8 individual's 14th birthday; and

9 2. B. Was adopted out of a foster care home after the  
 10 individual's 14th birthday.

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

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

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

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

19 (ii) The foster care recipient is enrolled as a candidate for an  
 20 Associate's degree or a Bachelor's degree; and

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

23 (2) If a foster care recipient receives a scholarship or grant for  
 24 postsecondary study and is enrolled before the recipient's 21st birthday as a candidate  
 25 for an Associate's degree or Bachelor's degree at a public institution for higher  
 26 education, the foster care recipient may not be required to pay the difference between  
 27 the amount of the scholarship or grant and the amount of the tuition.

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

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

33 (ii) The date that the foster care recipient is awarded a Bachelor's  
 34 degree.

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

