
By: **Delegates Gutierrez, Anderson, Barve, Bobo, Bronrott, Carter,
Feldman, Franchot, Frush, Heller, Hubbard, Kaiser, King, Lawton, Lee,
Madaleno, Marriott, Menes, Moe, Murray, Nathan-Pulliam, Niemann,
Petzold, Quinter, Ramirez, Rosenberg, Ross, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Office of Student Financial Assistance in the
4 Maryland Higher Education Commission to request that an applicant for State
5 student financial assistance complete and file an application for federal student
6 aid subject to certain exceptions; prohibiting the Office from refusing to consider
7 certain applicants for State financial assistance under certain circumstances;
8 requiring the Office to implement certain processes to determine and verify the
9 reasons that a student's application for federal student aid is denied, to compare
10 certain students, and to ensure that the Office considers certain applicants for
11 State student financial assistance; and generally relating to the State student
12 financial assistance requirements.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article - Education
15 Section 18-101(a) and (c)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

18 BY adding to
19 Article - Education
20 Section 18-114
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

1

Article - Education

2 18-101.

3 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (c) "Office" means the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

5 18-114.

6 (A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE OFFICE MAY
7 REQUEST THAT AN APPLICANT FOR STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
8 COMPLETE AND FILE AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

9 (B) THE OFFICE MAY NOT REFUSE TO CONSIDER AN APPLICANT FOR STATE
10 STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IF THE STUDENT'S APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL
11 STUDENT AID IS DENIED BECAUSE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID
12 ARE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE
13 STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

14 (C) THE OFFICE SHALL IMPLEMENT A PROCESS TO:

15 (1) DETERMINE AND VERIFY THE REASONS THAT A STUDENT'S
16 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID IS DENIED;

17 (2) COMPARE STUDENTS WHOSE APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL STUDENT
18 AID ARE DENIED WITH STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE AND FILE AN
19 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID FOR THE PURPOSE OF AWARDING STATE
20 STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE; AND

21 (3) ENSURE THAT THE OFFICE CONSIDERS APPLICANTS FOR STATE
22 STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS
23 SECTION.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2006.