
By: **Delegates Ramirez, Boschert, Cardin, Cryor, Gordon, Hixson, King, and
Patterson**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Financial Assistance - Community College Access**
3 **Initiative**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to use a
5 certain percent of financial need for certain fiscal years when calculating an
6 award for a community college student receiving an Educational Excellence
7 Award; and generally relating to the calculation of Educational Excellence
8 Awards.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - Education
11 Section 18-304
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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 18-304.

18 (a) (1) Except as provided in § 18-307 of this subtitle, the Office shall
19 determine the amount of each Educational Excellence Award based on the financial
20 need of the applicant.

21 (2) In determining the amount of financial need, the Office shall
22 consider regional cost-of-living differences.

23 (3) IN DETERMINING THE PERCENT OF FINANCIAL NEED USED TO
24 CALCULATE AN AWARD FOR A COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT RECEIVING AN
25 EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD, THE COMMISSION SHALL USE THE FOLLOWING
26 PERCENTAGES:

27 (I) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007, NOT LESS THAN 50%;

1 (II) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008, NOT LESS THAN 55%; AND

2 (III) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER,
3 NOT LESS THAN 60%.

4 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an
5 Educational Excellence Award may be awarded in \$100 increments and the award for
6 a single year may not be less than \$400 or more than \$3,000.

7 (2) (i) All applicants who fulfill the requirements established in §
8 18-303(a) and (b) of this subtitle shall receive a Guaranteed Access Grant.

9 (ii) The amount of a Guaranteed Access Grant shall be equal to 100
10 percent of the student's financial need as determined by the Office, not to exceed the
11 equivalent annual expenses of a full-time resident undergraduate at the 4-year
12 public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland,
13 other than the University of Maryland University College and University of
14 Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for a full-time resident
15 undergraduate.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 July 1, 2006.