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By: **Delegates Ramirez, Boschert, Cardin, Cryor, Gordon, Hixson, King, and  
Patterson, Patterson, Bartlett, Bozman, C. Davis, Elmore, Gilleland,  
Goodwin, Healey, Heller, Howard, Kaiser, Marriott, McKee, Myers, and  
Ross**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 28, 2006

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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

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

7 (I) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007, NOT LESS THAN ~~50%~~; 55%; AND

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

9 ~~(III)~~ (II) FOR FISCAL YEAR ~~2009~~ 2008 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR  
10 THEREAFTER, NOT LESS THAN 60%.

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

14 (2) (i) All applicants who fulfill the requirements established in §  
15 18-303(a) and (b) of this subtitle shall receive a Guaranteed Access Grant.

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

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