
By: **Delegates McHale and Conroy**

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship - Eligibility**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility requirements for the Edward T. Conroy
4 Memorial Scholarship to allow a child or surviving spouse of a certain public
5 safety employee who is 100 percent disabled to qualify for a scholarship; and
6 generally relating to the eligibility requirements for the Edward T. Conroy
7 Memorial Scholarship.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Education
10 Section 18-601
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Education**

16 18-601.

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

18 (2) "Disabled public safety employee" means a State or local public safety
19 employee who sustains an injury in the line of duty that:

20 (i) Precludes the individual from continuing to serve or be
21 employed as a State or local public safety employee; and

22 (ii) In the case of a volunteer member of a fire department or
23 ambulance or rescue company or squad, precludes the member from continuing to be
24 employed in the nonpublic safety occupation in which the member is engaged at the
25 time of the injury.

26 (3) "Surviving spouse" means a person who has not remarried.

- 1 (4) "State or local public safety employee" means a person who is:
- 2 (i) A career or volunteer member of a:
- 3 1. Fire department;
- 4 2. Ambulance company or squad; or
- 5 3. Rescue company or squad;
- 6 (ii) A law enforcement officer;
- 7 (iii) A correctional officer; or
- 8 (iv) A member of the Maryland National Guard who was a resident
- 9 of this State at the time of death.
- 10 (5) "Victim of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks" means a
- 11 Maryland resident who was killed as a result of the attacks on the World Trade
- 12 Center in New York City, the attack on the Pentagon in Virginia, or the crash of
- 13 United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania.
- 14 (b) There is a program of scholarships that are awarded under this section.
- 15 (c) The Program is the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program.
- 16 (d) A person may apply to the Office for a scholarship under this section if the
- 17 person:
- 18 (1) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, is a resident of
- 19 Maryland;
- 20 (2) (i) Is accepted for admission or enrolled in the regular
- 21 undergraduate, graduate or professional program at an eligible institution; or
- 22 (ii) Is enrolled in a 2-year terminal certificate program in which
- 23 the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate
- 24 program in an eligible institution; and
- 25 (3) (i) Is at least 16 years old and a son or daughter of a member of the
- 26 armed forces who was a resident of this State at the time the parent:
- 27 1. Died or was totally and permanently disabled as a result
- 28 of military service after December 7, 1941; or
- 29 2. Was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action,
- 30 if that occurred on or after January 1, 1960 as a result of the Vietnam conflict, and if
- 31 the child was born prior to or while the parent was a prisoner of war or missing in
- 32 action;

1 (ii) Was a prisoner of war on or after January 1, 1960 as a result of
 2 the Vietnam conflict and was a resident of this State at the time the person was
 3 declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action;

4 (iii) 1. Is at least 16 years old and a son or daughter of any State
 5 or local public safety employee killed in the line of duty; or

6 2. Is the surviving spouse of any State or local public safety
 7 employee killed in the line of duty;

8 (iv) 1. Is a disabled public safety employee;

9 2. IS AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD AND A SON OR DAUGHTER OF A
 10 DISABLED PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE WHO SUSTAINS AN INJURY IN THE LINE OF
 11 DUTY THAT RENDERS THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE 100% DISABLED; OR

12 3. IS THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A DISABLED PUBLIC
 13 SAFETY EMPLOYEE WHO SUSTAINS AN INJURY IN THE LINE OF DUTY THAT RENDERS
 14 THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE 100% DISABLED;

15 (v) Is a veteran, as defined under § 9-901 of the State Government
 16 Article, who:

17 1. Suffers a service-related disability of 25% or greater; and

18 2. Has exhausted or is no longer eligible for federal veterans'
 19 educational benefits; or

20 (vi) Is at least 16 years old and a son or daughter of or the surviving
 21 spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

22 (e) For a person who graduates from a high school in this State in 2004, that
 23 person shall be eligible under subsection (d)(1) of this section if the person:

24 (1) Is a resident of Maryland;

25 (2) Is a student at a Maryland high school at the time of application; or

26 (3) Graduated from a Maryland high school within 3 months of
 27 application.

28 (f) A scholarship awarded under this section:

29 (1) May be used for the tuition and mandatory fees at any eligible
 30 institution; and

31 (2) May not:

32 (i) Exceed the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees of a
 33 resident undergraduate student at the 4-year public institution of higher education
 34 within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland

1 University College and University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual
2 expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate; and

3 (ii) Be less than the lesser of:

4 1. \$3,000; or

5 2. The equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees of a
6 resident of the institution attended by the recipient of the scholarship.

7 (g) (1) Each recipient of a scholarship under this section may hold the award
8 for 5 years of full-time study or 8 years of part-time study.

9 (2) The Office may not award more than 15 scholarships annually under
10 subsection (d)(3)(v) of this section.

11 (3) An award provided under subsection (d)(3)(vi) of this section may not
12 exceed the amount specified in subsection (f)(2) of this section when combined with
13 any other scholarship received by a student based on the student's status as a child or
14 spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

15 (h) The Commission:

16 (1) May accept any gift or grant from any person for the Edward T.
17 Conroy Scholarship Fund;

18 (2) Shall use any gift or grant that it receives for a scholarship from the
19 Program; and

20 (3) Shall deposit any gift or grant that it receives for the Program with
21 the State Treasurer in a nonbudgeted account.

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