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By: **Delegates McHale and Conroy**

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Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 23, 2006

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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:

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

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

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

8 (4) "State or local public safety employee" means a person who is:

9 (i) A career or volunteer member of a:

10 1. Fire department;

11 2. Ambulance company or squad; or

12 3. Rescue company or squad;

13 (ii) A law enforcement officer;

14 (iii) A correctional officer; or

15 (iv) A member of the Maryland National Guard who was a resident  
16 of this State at the time of death.

17 (5) "Victim of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks" means a  
18 Maryland resident who was killed as a result of the attacks on the World Trade  
19 Center in New York City, the attack on the Pentagon in Virginia, or the crash of  
20 United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania.

21 (b) There is a program of scholarships that are awarded under this section.

22 (c) The Program is the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program.

23 (d) A person may apply to the Office for a scholarship under this section if the  
24 person:

25 (1) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, is a resident of  
26 Maryland;

27 (2) (i) Is accepted for admission or enrolled in the regular  
28 undergraduate, graduate or professional program at an eligible institution; or

29 (ii) Is enrolled in a 2-year terminal certificate program in which  
30 the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate  
31 program in an eligible institution; and

32 (3) (i) Is at least 16 years old and a son or daughter of a member of the  
33 armed forces who was a resident of this State at the time the parent:

1 1. Died or was totally and permanently disabled as a result  
2 of military service after December 7, 1941; or

3 2. Was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action,  
4 if that occurred on or after January 1, 1960 as a result of the Vietnam conflict, and if  
5 the child was born prior to or while the parent was a prisoner of war or missing in  
6 action;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (1) Is a resident of Maryland;

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

32 (3) Graduated from a Maryland high school within 3 months of  
33 application.

34 (f) A scholarship awarded under this section:

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

3 (2) May not:

4 (i) Exceed the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees of a  
5 resident undergraduate student at the 4-year public institution of higher education  
6 within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland  
7 University College and University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual  
8 expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate; and

9 (ii) Be less than the lesser of:

10 1. \$3,000; or

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

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

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

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

21 (h) The Commission:

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

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

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

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

