

HOUSE BILL 283

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HB 1310/06 – W&M

71r1751

By: **Delegates Gutierrez, Anderson, Barnes, Bobo, Bronrott, Carter, Feldman, Frush, Heller, Hubbard, Hucker, Kaiser, Lawton, Lee, Manno, Nathan-Pulliam, Niemann, Ramirez, Rice, Ross, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2007

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 (2006 Replacement Volume)

18 BY adding to
19 Article – Education
20 Section 18–114
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2006 Replacement Volume)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Education**

4 18–101.

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

6 (c) “Office” means the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

7 **18–114.**

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

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

16 (C) **THE OFFICE SHALL IMPLEMENT A PROCESS TO:**

17 (1) **DETERMINE AND VERIFY THE REASONS THAT A STUDENT’S**
18 **APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID IS DENIED;**

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

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

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2007.