

SENATE BILL 608

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8lr2773

By: **Senators Garagiola, Astle, DeGrange, Dyson, Lenett, Mooney, Peters, Raskin, Simonaire, and Stone**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2008

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts**
3 **Scholarship – Extension**

4 FOR the purpose of extending the date by which the Office of Student Financial
5 Assistance may award an initial Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts
6 Scholarship; extending the date by which the Office may renew a Veterans of
7 the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship under certain circumstances;
8 making certain technical changes; and generally relating to the Veterans of the
9 Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 18–604
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 18–604.

19 (a) For purposes of this section, an individual served in the Afghanistan or
20 Iraq conflict if the individual was a member of the uniform services of the United
21 States who served in:

22 (1) Afghanistan or contiguous air space, as defined in federal
23 regulations, on or after October 24, 2001, and before a terminal date to be prescribed
24 by the United States Secretary of Defense; or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) Room and board.

2 (2) The annual amount of a scholarship may not exceed 50% of the
3 equivalent annual tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board of a resident
4 undergraduate student at the 4-year public institution of higher education within the
5 University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University
6 College and University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for
7 a full-time resident undergraduate.

8 (f) A scholarship recipient shall maintain a grade point average of at least
9 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

10 (g) Each recipient of a scholarship under this section may hold the award for
11 5 years of full-time study or 8 years of part-time study.

12 (h) A scholarship recipient shall file for federal and State financial aid by
13 March 1 of each year.

14 (i) (1) The Office may not award an initial scholarship to an individual
15 [specified in subsection (c)(3) of this section] after June 30, [2012] **2016**.

16 (2) The Office may renew a scholarship after June 30, [2012] **2016**, if
17 the individual received an initial scholarship before that date.

18 (j) A Senator or Delegate may authorize the Office to award all or a portion
19 of the funds authorized under Subtitles 4 and 5 of this title to eligible recipients of
20 scholarships awarded under this section.

21 (k) (1) Funds for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts
22 Scholarship shall be as provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the
23 Governor.

24 (2) (i) There is a Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts
25 Scholarship Fund in the Commission.

26 (ii) The Commission:

27 1. May accept any gift or grant from any person or
28 corporation for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Fund;

29 2. Shall use any gift or grant that it receives for a
30 scholarship from the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship
31 Fund; and

32 3. Shall deposit any gift or grant that it receives for the
33 Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Fund with the State
34 Treasurer in a nonbudgeted account.

1 (3) (i) At the end of the fiscal year, the Commission shall prepare
2 an annual report on the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship
3 Fund that includes an accounting of all financial receipts and expenditures to and
4 from the Fund.

5 (ii) The Commission shall submit a copy of the report to the
6 General Assembly as provided under § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 2008.