

SENATE BILL 608

F2

8lr2773

By: **Senators Garagiola, Astle, DeGrange, Dyson, Lenett, Mooney, Peters, Raskin, Simonaire, ~~and Stone~~ Stone, Klausmeier, Colburn, Conway, Harris, and Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2008

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2008

CHAPTER _____

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.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

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

7 (2) Iraq or contiguous waters or air space, as defined in federal
8 regulations, on or after March 19, 2003, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by
9 the United States Secretary of Defense.

10 (b) There is a Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship.

11 (c) An individual may apply to the Office for a scholarship under this section
12 if the individual:

13 (1) Is a resident of Maryland;

14 (2) (i) Is accepted for admission or enrolled in the regular
15 undergraduate program at an eligible institution; or

16 (ii) Is accepted for admission or enrolled in a 2-year terminal
17 certificate program in which the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an
18 accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible institution; and

19 (3) (i) 1. Is a veteran, as defined under § 9-901 of the State
20 Government Article, who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict;

21 2. Is an active duty member of the armed forces who
22 served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

23 3. Is a member of a reserve component of the armed
24 forces of the United States or the Maryland National Guard who was activated as a
25 result of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict described in subsection (a) of this section; or

26 (ii) Is a son, daughter, or spouse of:

27 1. A veteran or active duty member of the armed forces
28 who is serving or has served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

29 2. A member of the reserve or Maryland National Guard
30 who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict described in
31 subsection (a) of this section.

32 (d) A scholarship awarded under this section shall supplement any federal
33 education benefits for which a recipient qualifies as a result of an individual's military

1 service or status as a dependent of a member of the armed forces or of a veteran of the
2 armed forces.

3 (e) (1) Each scholarship may be used, at any eligible institution, to pay for
4 educational expenses as defined by the Office, including:

5 (i) Tuition and mandatory fees; and

6 (ii) Room and board.

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

13 (f) A scholarship recipient shall maintain a grade point average of at least
14 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

15 (g) Each recipient of a scholarship under this section may hold the award for
16 5 years of full-time study or 8 years of part-time study.

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 (ii) The Commission:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.