

# SENATE BILL 365

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By: **Senators Garagiola, Astle, Benson, Colburn, Currie, DeGrange, Dyson, Ferguson, Forehand, Frosh, Glassman, Jennings, Kasemeyer, King, Klausmeier, Madaleno, Manno, Mathias, Middleton, Peters, Pipkin, Pugh, Ramirez, Raskin, Robey, Rosapepe, Stone, Young, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Volunteer Firefighters Scholarship**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Volunteer Firefighters Scholarship; establishing  
4 certain eligibility requirements for a scholarship; authorizing the use of a  
5 scholarship for certain educational expenses; prohibiting the annual amount of  
6 a scholarship from exceeding a certain percentage of the equivalent tuition and  
7 certain fees of a certain institution of higher education; requiring a scholarship  
8 recipient to maintain a certain grade point average; providing for the duration  
9 of the scholarship; requiring scholarship recipients to file for certain federal and  
10 State financial aid by a certain date; authorizing legislative scholarship funds to  
11 be used for certain purposes; providing that funds for the scholarship are as  
12 provided in a certain annual budget by the Governor; establishing a Volunteer  
13 Firefighters Scholarship Fund in the Higher Education Commission; directing  
14 the Commission to use certain gifts and grants for the Fund in a certain  
15 manner; requiring the Commission to prepare a certain annual report regarding  
16 the Fund; and generally relating to the establishment of the Volunteer  
17 Firefighters Scholarship.

18 BY adding to

19 Article – Education

20 Section 18–605

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Education**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **18-605.**

2 (A) **THERE IS A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS SCHOLARSHIP.**

3 (B) **AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO THE OFFICE FOR A SCHOLARSHIP**  
4 **UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE INDIVIDUAL:**

5 (1) **IS A RESIDENT OF MARYLAND;**

6 (2) (I) **IS ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION OR ENROLLED IN THE**  
7 **REGULAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION; OR**

8 (II) **IS ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION OR ENROLLED IN A**  
9 **2-YEAR TERMINAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN WHICH THE COURSE WORK IS**  
10 **ACCEPTABLE FOR TRANSFER CREDIT FOR AN ACCREDITED BACCALAUREATE**  
11 **PROGRAM IN AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION; AND**

12 (3) **IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED AS A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER OR**  
13 **AMBULANCE OR RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER IN AN ORGANIZED FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
14 **OR AMBULANCE OR RESCUE SQUAD IN THE STATE.**

15 (C) **A SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION:**

16 (1) **MAY BE USED FOR THE TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES AT**  
17 **ANY ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION; AND**

18 (2) **MAY NOT EXCEED 33.3% OF THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL**  
19 **TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES OF A RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AT**  
20 **THE 4-YEAR PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITHIN THE**  
21 **UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, OTHER THAN THE UNIVERSITY OF**  
22 **MARYLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND,**  
23 **BALTIMORE, WITH THE HIGHEST ANNUAL EXPENSES FOR A FULL-TIME**  
24 **RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE.**

25 (D) **A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SHALL MAINTAIN A GRADE POINT**  
26 **AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 2.5 ON A 4.0 SCALE.**

27 (E) **EACH RECIPIENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION MAY**  
28 **HOLD THE AWARD FOR 5 YEARS OF FULL-TIME STUDY OR 8 YEARS OF**  
29 **PART-TIME STUDY.**

1           **(F) A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SHALL FILE FOR FEDERAL AND STATE**  
2 **FINANCIAL AID BY MARCH 1 OF EACH YEAR.**

3           **(G) A SENATOR OR DELEGATE MAY AUTHORIZE THE OFFICE TO AWARD**  
4 **ALL OR A PORTION OF THE FUNDS AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBTITLES 4 AND 5 OF**  
5 **THIS TITLE TO ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED UNDER THIS**  
6 **SECTION.**

7           **(H) (1) FUNDS FOR THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS SCHOLARSHIP**  
8 **SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE COMMISSION BY THE**  
9 **GOVERNOR.**

10           **(2) (I) THERE IS A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS SCHOLARSHIP**  
11 **FUND IN THE COMMISSION.**

12                   **(II) THE COMMISSION:**

13                           **1. MAY ACCEPT ANY GIFT OR GRANT FROM ANY**  
14 **PERSON OR CORPORATION FOR THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS SCHOLARSHIP**  
15 **FUND;**

16                           **2. SHALL USE ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT**  
17 **RECEIVES FOR A SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**  
18 **SCHOLARSHIP FUND; AND**

19                           **3. SHALL DEPOSIT ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT**  
20 **RECEIVES FOR THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND WITH THE**  
21 **STATE TREASURER IN A NONBUDGETED ACCOUNT.**

22           **(3) (I) AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR, THE COMMISSION**  
23 **SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**  
24 **SCHOLARSHIP FUND THAT INCLUDES AN ACCOUNTING OF ALL FINANCIAL**  
25 **RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES TO AND FROM THE FUND.**

26                   **(II) THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A COPY OF THE**  
27 **REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS PROVIDED UNDER § 2-1246 OF THE**  
28 **STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

29           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**  
30 **July 1, 2012.**