

# SENATE BILL 543

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By: **Senator Frosh**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2013

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Foster Care Recipients – Waiver of Tuition and Other Charges**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “tuition” to include certain other charges  
4 for attending a public institution of higher education; and generally relating to a  
5 waiver of tuition and other charges at institutions of higher education for foster  
6 care recipients.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Education  
9 Section 15–106.1  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Education**

15 15–106.1.

16 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (2) (i) “Foster care recipient” means an individual who:

18 1. Was placed in an out-of-home placement by the  
19 Maryland Department of Human Resources; and

20 2. A. Resided in an out-of-home placement in the  
21 State at the time the individual graduated from high school or successfully completed  
22 a general equivalency development examination (GED); or

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   B.     Resided in an out-of-home placement in the State on  
2 the individual's 13th birthday and was adopted out of an out-of-home placement after  
3 the individual's 13th birthday.

4                   (ii)   "Foster care recipient" includes a younger sibling of an  
5 individual described in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph if the younger sibling is  
6 concurrently adopted out of an out-of-home placement by the same adoptive family.

7                   (3)   "Out-of-home placement" has the meaning stated in § 5-501 of the  
8 Family Law Article.

9                   (4)   (i)   "Tuition **AND OTHER CHARGES**" means the charges  
10 imposed **AND ESTIMATED** by a public institution of higher education for enrollment  
11 **AND ATTENDANCE** at the institution.

12                   (ii)   "Tuition **AND OTHER CHARGES**" includes:

13                   1.    [charges] **CHARGES** for registration and all fees  
14 required as a condition of enrollment; **AND**

15                   2.    **THE INSTITUTION'S ESTIMATE OF THE EXPENSES**  
16 **LIKELY TO BE INCURRED BY AN INDIVIDUAL FOR ROOM AND BOARD FOR**  
17 **ATTENDANCE AT THE INSTITUTION.**

18                   (b)   (1)   Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a foster care  
19 recipient is exempt from paying tuition **AND OTHER CHARGES** at a public institution  
20 of higher education if:

21                   (i)   The foster care recipient is enrolled at the institution on or  
22 before the date that the foster care recipient reaches the age of 25 years;

23                   (ii)   The foster care recipient is enrolled as a candidate for an  
24 associate's degree or a bachelor's degree; and

25                   (iii)  The foster care recipient has filed for federal and State  
26 financial aid by March 1 each year.

27                   (2)   If a foster care recipient receives a scholarship or grant for  
28 postsecondary study and is enrolled before the recipient's 25th birthday as a candidate  
29 for an associate's degree or bachelor's degree at a public institution of higher  
30 education, the foster care recipient may not be required to pay the difference between  
31 the amount of the scholarship or grant and the amount of the tuition **AND OTHER**  
32 **CHARGES.**

33                   (3)   A foster care recipient who is exempt from tuition **AND OTHER**  
34 **CHARGES** under this section continues to be exempt until the earlier of:

1                           (i)     5 years after first enrolling as a candidate for an associate's  
2 degree or a bachelor's degree at a public institution of higher education in the State; or

3                           (ii)    The date that the foster care recipient is awarded a  
4 bachelor's degree.

5           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 October 1, 2013.