

HOUSE BILL 673

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5lr1139

By: **Delegates Haynes, B. Barnes, Hettleman, Korman, Sydnor, Turner, and P. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2015

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Colleges – Tuition Waiver for Full–Time Students – Full State**
3 **Reimbursement**

4 FOR the purpose of exempting certain individuals who enroll as full–time certificate or
5 associate’s degree students at a community college in the State from payment of
6 tuition under certain circumstances; requiring certain individuals to apply for
7 certain financial aid; providing the conditions under which an individual is no longer
8 eligible for a tuition waiver; requiring certain individuals to be counted in a certain
9 computation of State and local aid to community colleges; specifying how financial
10 aid shall be applied for individuals who receive a tuition waiver; requiring the State
11 to reimburse community colleges for certain foregone tuition revenue; requiring that
12 funds used to reimburse community colleges shall be paid from the Education Trust
13 Fund from funds allocated from a certain source; requiring certain individuals who
14 do not satisfy certain requirements to repay the amount of the tuition waived;
15 authorizing the Maryland Higher Education Commission to adopt certain
16 regulations; defining a certain term; and generally relating to a tuition waiver for
17 certain individuals who enroll as full–time certificate or associate’s degree students
18 at community colleges in the State.

19 BY adding to

20 Article – Education

21 Section 16–106.1

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

25 Article – State Government

26 Section 9–1A–30

27 Annotated Code of Maryland

28 (2014 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 MARYLAND,
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Education**

4 **16–106.1.**

5 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “TUITION” MEANS THE BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL
6 CHARGE FOR COURSES OFFERED AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

7 (2) “TUITION” INCLUDES ANY FEES FOR:

8 (I) REGISTRATION;

9 (II) APPLICATION;

10 (III) ADMINISTRATION; OR

11 (IV) LABORATORY WORK.

12 (B) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

13 (I) IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE; AND

14 (II) ENROLLS AS A FULL–TIME STUDENT IN A VOCATIONAL
15 CERTIFICATE PROGRAM OR AN ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE PROGRAM AT A COMMUNITY
16 COLLEGE IN THE STATE WITHIN 2 YEARS AFTER GRADUATING FROM A HIGH SCHOOL
17 IN THE STATE OR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING A GED.

18 (2) AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
19 SUBSECTION WHO ENROLLS IN ANY CLASS THAT IS ELIGIBLE UNDER § 16–305 OF
20 THIS TITLE FOR STATE SUPPORT AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

21 (I) SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM PAYMENT OF TUITION; AND

22 (II) SHALL BE COUNTED IN COMPUTING FULL–TIME
23 EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT UNDER § 16–305 OF THIS TITLE.

24 (3) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS
25 SUBSECTION SHALL SUBMIT A TIMELY APPLICATION FOR ANY STATE OR FEDERAL
26 STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, OTHER THAN A STUDENT LOAN, FOR WHICH THE STUDENT
27 MAY QUALIFY.

1 **(C) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES A TUITION WAIVER UNDER SUBSECTION**
2 **(B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE TUITION WAIVER UNTIL THE**
3 **EARLIER OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

4 **(1) THE INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT MAINTAIN A GRADE POINT AVERAGE**
5 **OF AT LEAST 2.0 ON A 4.0 SCALE AND IS NOT MAKING SATISFACTORY PROGRESS**
6 **TOWARD A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE;**

7 **(2) 2-1/2 YEARS HAVE PASSED AFTER THE INDIVIDUAL FIRST**
8 **ENROLLED AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT IN A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM OR**
9 **AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE PROGRAM AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE; OR**

10 **(3) THE INDIVIDUAL IS AWARDED A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE OR AN**
11 **ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE.**

12 **(D) (1) ANY STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, OTHER THAN A STUDENT LOAN,**
13 **RECEIVED BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES A TUITION WAIVER UNDER**
14 **SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL FIRST BE APPLIED TO PAY THE**
15 **INDIVIDUAL'S TUITION.**

16 **(2) THE TUITION WAIVER SHALL APPLY TO THE DIFFERENCE, IF ANY,**
17 **BETWEEN THE CHARGE FOR TUITION AND THE FINANCIAL AID AWARD, NOT**
18 **INCLUDING A STUDENT LOAN, THAT THE INDIVIDUAL RECEIVES.**

19 **(3) ON REQUEST, THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL ASSIST ANY**
20 **INDIVIDUAL REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR STATE OR FEDERAL**
21 **STUDENT FINANCIAL AID UNDER THIS SECTION.**

22 **(E) (1) A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FROM**
23 **THE STATE FOR FOREGONE TUITION REVENUE RESULTING FROM TUITION WAIVERS**
24 **AWARDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.**

25 **(2) ANY FUNDS USED TO REIMBURSE A COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR**
26 **FOREGONE TUITION REVENUE SHALL BE PAID FROM THE EDUCATION TRUST FUND**
27 **FROM THE FUNDS ALLOCATED UNDER § 9-1A-27 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**
28 **ARTICLE.**

29 **(F) THE RECIPIENT OF A TUITION WAIVER UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS**
30 **SECTION SHALL REPAY THE AMOUNT OF TUITION WAIVED IF THE RECIPIENT DOES**
31 **NOT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE AWARDED A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE OR**
32 **AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE WITHIN 3 YEARS AFTER FIRST RECEIVING A TUITION**
33 **WAIVER.**

1 (d) Expenditures from the Education Trust Fund shall be made each fiscal year
2 in accordance with the State budget.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
4 1, 2015.