

HOUSE BILL 281

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By: **Delegates Smith, Cluster, Holmes, Kipke, Metzgar, Rey, and Vogt**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2016

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program – Eligibility**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility requirements for the Edward T. and Mary A.
4 Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program to include veterans and members of the
5 armed forces who have served or are currently serving on active duty for a minimum
6 period of time; altering the eligibility requirements for the Conroy Memorial
7 Scholarship Program to include certain children and spouses of veterans and
8 members of the armed forces who have served or are currently serving on active duty
9 for a minimum period of time; repealing certain limitations on the eligibility of
10 certain veterans and the number of veterans that are eligible to receive a Conroy
11 Memorial Scholarship; limiting the amount of an award under the Conroy Memorial
12 Scholarship Program for certain students under certain circumstances; defining a
13 certain term; making certain stylistic and conforming changes; and generally
14 relating to eligibility for the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship
15 Program.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Education
18 Section 15–106.7(b) and 18–601
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Education**

24 15–106.7.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) A son or a daughter of a State or local public safety employee who is eligible
2 for a scholarship in accordance with § [18-601(d)(3)(iii)] **18-601(D)(3)(V)** of this article is
3 exempt from paying the nonresident tuition rate at a public institution of higher education.

4 18-601.

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

6 (2) “Disabled public safety employee” means a State or local public safety
7 employee who sustains an injury in the line of duty that:

8 (i) Precludes the individual from continuing to serve or be employed
9 as a State or local public safety employee; and

10 (ii) In the case of a volunteer member of a fire department or
11 ambulance or rescue company or squad, precludes the member from continuing to be
12 employed in the nonpublic safety occupation in which the member is engaged at the time
13 of the injury.

14 (3) “Fund” means the Edward T. Conroy and Jean B. Cryor Scholarship
15 Fund.

16 (4) “School employee” includes an employee of a public or nonpublic school
17 in the State.

18 (5) “Surviving spouse” means a person who has not remarried.

19 (6) “State or local public safety employee” means a person who is:

20 (i) A career or volunteer member of a:

- 21 1. Fire department;
- 22 2. Ambulance company or squad; or
- 23 3. Rescue company or squad;

24 (ii) A law enforcement officer;

25 (iii) A correctional officer; or

26 (iv) A member of the Maryland National Guard who was a resident
27 of this State at the time of death.

28 **(7) “VETERAN” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE**
29 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

1 [(7)] (8) “Victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks” means a
2 Maryland resident who was killed as a result of the attacks on the World Trade Center in
3 New York City, the attack on the Pentagon in Virginia, or the crash of United Airlines
4 Flight 93 in Pennsylvania.

5 (b) There is a program of scholarships that are awarded by eligible postsecondary
6 institutions under this section.

7 (c) (1) The program for military and public safety personnel and their eligible
8 dependents is the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program.

9 (2) The program for eligible dependents of public and nonpublic school
10 employees is the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program.

11 (d) A person may apply to an eligible postsecondary institution for a scholarship
12 under this section if the person:

13 (1) (i) Is a resident of Maryland at the time of application; or

14 (ii) Was a resident of Maryland when an event described in
15 paragraph (3) of this subsection occurred;

16 (2) (i) Is accepted for admission or enrolled in the regular
17 undergraduate, graduate or professional program at an eligible institution; or

18 (ii) Is enrolled in a 2–year terminal certificate program in which the
19 course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program in an
20 eligible institution; and

21 (3) (I) **IS A VETERAN OR A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO:**

22 1. **HAS COMPLETED ACTIVE DUTY AFTER SERVING FOR**
23 **AT LEAST 4 YEARS;**

24 2. **IS CURRENTLY ON ACTIVE DUTY AND HAS BEEN**
25 **SERVING FOR AT LEAST 4 YEARS; OR**

26 3. **HAS SUFFERED A SERVICE–CONNECTED DISABILITY**
27 **OF 25% OR GREATER;**

28 (II) **WAS A PRISONER OF WAR OR MISSING IN ACTION, IF THAT**
29 **OCCURRED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1960, AS A RESULT OF THE VIETNAM**
30 **CONFLICT AND WAS A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE AT THE TIME THE PERSON WAS**
31 **DECLARED TO BE A PRISONER OF WAR OR MISSING IN ACTION;**

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1 **[(i)] (III)** Is at least 16 years old and a son, daughter, stepson, or
2 stepdaughter of a **VETERAN OR A** member of the armed forces who:

3 1. Died as a result of military service after December 7, 1941;

4 2. Suffered a **[service connected] SERVICE-CONNECTED**
5 **100% permanent disability after December 7, 1941; [or]**

6 3. Was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action,
7 if that occurred on or after January 1, 1960, as a result of the Vietnam conflict, and if the
8 child was born prior to or while the parent was a prisoner of war or missing in action; **OR**

9 4. **A. HAS COMPLETED ACTIVE DUTY AFTER SERVING**
10 **FOR AT LEAST 4 YEARS; OR**

11 **B. IS CURRENTLY ON ACTIVE DUTY AND HAS BEEN**
12 **SERVING FOR AT LEAST 4 YEARS;**

13 **[(ii)** Was a prisoner of war or missing in action, if that occurred on or
14 after January 1, 1960, as a result of the Vietnam conflict and was a resident of this State
15 at the time the person was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action;]

16 **(IV) IS THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A VETERAN OR A MEMBER OF**
17 **THE ARMED FORCES WHO:**

18 1. **HAS COMPLETED ACTIVE DUTY AFTER SERVING FOR**
19 **AT LEAST 4 YEARS;**

20 2. **IS CURRENTLY ON ACTIVE DUTY AND HAS BEEN**
21 **SERVING FOR AT LEAST 4 YEARS; OR**

22 3. **HAS SUFFERED A SERVICE-CONNECTED 100%**
23 **PERMANENT DISABILITY;**

24 **[(iii)] (V)** 1. Is at least 16 years old and a son, daughter, stepson,
25 or stepdaughter of any State or local public safety employee killed in the line of duty; or

26 2. Is the surviving spouse of any State or local public safety
27 employee killed in the line of duty;

28 **[(iv)] (VI)** 1. Is a disabled public safety employee;

29 2. Is at least 16 years old and a son, daughter, stepson, or
30 stepdaughter of a disabled public safety employee who sustains an injury in the line of duty
31 that renders the public safety employee 100% disabled; or

1 3. Is the surviving spouse of a disabled public safety
2 employee who sustains an injury in the line of duty that renders the public safety employee
3 100% disabled;

4 [(v) Is a veteran, as defined under § 9–901 of the State Government
5 Article, who:

6 1. Suffers a service connected disability of 25% or greater;
7 and

8 2. Has exhausted or is no longer eligible for federal veterans’
9 educational benefits;

10 (vi) Is the surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces who
11 suffered a service connected 100% permanent disability;]

12 (vii) Is at least 16 years old and a son, daughter, stepson, or
13 stepdaughter of or the surviving spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist
14 attacks;

15 (viii) Is at least 16 years old and a son, daughter, stepson, or
16 stepdaughter of a school employee who, as a result of an act of violence:

17 1. Died in the line of duty; or

18 2. Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the
19 school employee 100% disabled; or

20 (ix) Is the surviving spouse of a school employee who, as a result of
21 an act of violence:

22 1. Died in the line of duty; or

23 2. Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the
24 school employee 100% disabled.

25 (e) A scholarship awarded under this section:

26 (1) May be used for the tuition and mandatory fees at any eligible
27 institution; and

28 (2) May not:

29 (i) Exceed the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees of a
30 resident undergraduate student at the 4–year public institution of higher education within
31 the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University

1 College and University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for a
2 full-time resident undergraduate; and

3 (ii) Be less than the lesser of:

4 1. \$3,000; or

5 2. The equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees of a
6 resident of the institution attended by the recipient of the scholarship.

7 (f) (1) Each postsecondary institution shall determine the eligibility of
8 persons who apply to the institution for the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship
9 Program and the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program.

10 (2) Funds for the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and
11 the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program shall be allocated by the Commission to
12 each postsecondary institution based on the number of eligible recipients attending each
13 institution.

14 (3) In October and February of each year, each postsecondary institution
15 shall report to the Commission the number of eligible recipients attending the institution.

16 (4) The Commission shall allocate funds for awards to postsecondary
17 institutions upon verification of eligible recipients attending the institutions.

18 (5) If funds cannot be allocated in the fiscal year in which awards are made,
19 priority shall be given to allocating funds for those awards in the following fiscal year.

20 (g) (1) Each recipient of a scholarship under this section may hold the award
21 for 5 years of full-time study or 8 years of part-time study.

22 (2) [The number of eligible recipients under subsection (d)(3)(v) of this
23 section shall be limited to 15 each year.

24 (3)] An award provided under subsection [(d)(3)(vi)] **(D)(3)(VII)** of this
25 section may not exceed the amount specified in subsection (e)(2) of this section when
26 combined with any other scholarship received by a student based on the student's status
27 as a child or spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

28 **(3) AN AWARD PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(3)(I), (III), OR (IV)**
29 **OF THIS SECTION MAY NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (E)(2)**
30 **OF THIS SECTION WHEN COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER SCHOLARSHIP RECEIVED BY A**
31 **STUDENT BASED ON THE STUDENT'S STATUS AS A VETERAN OR A MEMBER OF THE**
32 **ARMED FORCES OR AS A CHILD OR SPOUSE OF A VETERAN OR A MEMBER OF THE**
33 **ARMED FORCES.**

1 (h) (1) There is an Edward T. Conroy and Jean B. Cryor Scholarship Fund.

2 (2) The Commission shall administer the Fund.

3 (3) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of
4 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

5 (4) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund and the Comptroller shall
6 account for the Fund.

7 (5) The Commission:

8 (i) May accept any gift or grant from any person for the Fund;

9 (ii) Shall use any gift or grant that it receives for a scholarship from
10 the programs; and

11 (iii) Shall deposit any gift or grant that it receives for the programs
12 with the State Treasurer.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
14 1, 2016.