

Chapter 543

(House Bill 12)

AN ACT concerning

Senatorial and Delegate Scholarships – ~~Veterans Individuals on Active Duty~~ – Eligibility, *Award Amounts*, and Use of Funds

FOR the purpose of authorizing certain senatorial and delegate scholarships to be used at certain out-of-state institutions of higher education if a certain scholarship applicant is a certain ~~veteran individual on active duty~~ who is domiciled in the State; ~~authorizing~~ *requiring* a certain ~~veteran individual on active duty~~ to be domiciled in the State in order to retain a certain senatorial scholarship; *altering the amount that may be awarded under the senatorial scholarship program beginning on a certain date; clarifying the calculation of the amount that may be awarded under the delegate scholarship program;* making certain stylistic changes; and generally relating to qualifications for *and amounts awarded under the* senatorial and delegate ~~scholarships~~ *scholarship programs.*

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Education
 Section 18-402(a), 18-406(a), and 18-501(a)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Education
 Section 18-402(b), ~~18-404~~, 18-405(d), 18-406(b), ~~and 18-501(b)~~ *18-501(b), and 18-503*
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY adding to
 Article – Education
 Section 18-406(f)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

18-402.

(a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, each applicant for a senatorial scholarship shall:

(i) Take a competitive examination administered by the Office; and

(ii) Be accepted for admission in the regular undergraduate, graduate, or professional program at an eligible institution; or be enrolled in a 2-year terminal certificate program in which the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible institution.

(2) An applicant is exempt from the examination if the applicant:

(i) Is attending an eligible institution and has completed at least 1 year in good academic standing at the institution;

(ii) Graduated from high school at least 5 years before application for a senatorial scholarship;

(iii) Is accepted for admission to a private career institution, if the institution's curriculum is approved by the Commission, and the institution is accredited by a national accrediting association approved by the United States Department of Education; or

(iv) Is planning to attend or is attending a Maryland community college.

(b) (1) [Each] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH** applicant shall:

[(1)] (I) Be a resident of this State; and

[(2)] (II) At the time of the applicant's initial application, be a resident of the legislative district from which the applicant seeks an award.

(2) IF THE APPLICANT IS ~~A VETERAN~~ AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ON ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE UNITED STATES MILITARY, THE APPLICANT ~~MAY~~ SHALL:

(I) BE DOMICILED IN THIS STATE; AND

(II) AT THE TIME OF THE APPLICANT'S INITIAL APPLICATION, BE DOMICILED IN THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT FROM WHICH THE APPLICANT SEEKS AN AWARD.

(a) (1) [Each] UNTIL JUNE 30, 2019, EACH Senator may award \$34,500 of senatorial scholarships each year.

(2) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2019, EACH SENATOR MAY AWARD SENATORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS EACH FISCAL YEAR IN AN AMOUNT THAT MAY NOT EXCEED THE TOTAL OF:

(I) THE AMOUNT AUTHORIZED TO BE AWARDED THE PREVIOUS YEAR; AND

(II) THE AMOUNT OF THE INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR IN THE TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES OF AN UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM AT THE 4-YEAR PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, OTHER THAN THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE CAMPUS, WITH THE HIGHEST ANNUAL EXPENSES FOR A FULL-TIME RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE.

(b) (1) The annual allocation under subsection (a) of this section applies to initial-year awards [and awards made under § 18-406.1 of this subtitle]. After 4 years of operation, the annual allocation to each Senator for initial-year and continuing awards may not exceed four times the amount of the Senator's allocation under subsection (a) of this section.

(2) If a recipient moves to the legislative district of another Senator, the allocation to the recipient shall continue to be drawn on the account of the Senator who originally awarded the scholarship.

(c) (1) A senatorial scholarship may be awarded in \$100 increments.

(2) An award for a single year may not be less than \$400 or more than the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees of an undergraduate program at the 4-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University College and University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus, with the highest annual expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate.

18-405.

(d) Each Senator may award not more than 10 percent of the funds available under this subtitle to applicants planning to attend accredited undergraduate, graduate, or professional institutions outside the State, provided the applicant:

(1) Will be studying in an academic area that is not available in the State;
[or]

(2) Is a hearing impaired person who will be studying at an institution outside the State that makes special provisions for hearing impaired students, and comparable special provisions are not available to [that student] **THE APPLICANT** at an institution in the State; **OR**

(3) IS ~~A VETERAN~~ AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ON ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE UNITED STATES MILITARY WHO IS DOMICILED IN THIS STATE.

18-406.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each recipient of a senatorial scholarship may hold the scholarship for 4 undergraduate academic years, subject to § 18-406.1 of this subtitle, and 4 graduate academic years if the recipient:

(1) Is a full-time student;

(2) Continues to be a resident of this State; and

(3) Continues to be a student at the institution and takes at least 12 semester hours of courses as an undergraduate or 9 semester hours of courses as a graduate student each semester leading to a degree.

(b) A recipient of an undergraduate or graduate senatorial scholarship may hold the scholarship, appropriately prorated, for 8 academic years if [he] **THE RECIPIENT**:

(1) Is a part-time student;

(2) Continues to be a resident of this State; and

(3) Continues to be a student at the institution and takes at least 6 semester hours of courses each semester leading to a degree.

(F) A RECIPIENT OF A SENATORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WHO IS ~~A VETERAN~~ AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ON ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE UNITED STATES MILITARY AND OTHERWISE MEETS THE CONDITIONS OF SUBSECTION (A) OR (B) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE DOMICILED IN THIS STATE RATHER THAN A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE.

18-501.

(a) There is a program of Delegate Scholarships in this State that are awarded under this subtitle.

(b) A scholarship awarded under this subtitle may be used at:

(1) An eligible institution for a program of undergraduate, graduate, or professional studies;

(2) An accredited undergraduate, graduate, or professional institution outside the State, if **THE APPLICANT**:

(i) ~~[The applicant will]~~ **WILL** be studying in an academic area that is not available in this State; ~~[or]~~

(ii) ~~[1. The applicant is]~~ **IS** disabled[;

~~2. The applicant]~~ **AND** will be studying at an institution outside the State that makes special provisions for disabled students[; and

~~3. Comparable special provisions]~~ **THAT** are not available to ~~[that student]~~ **THE APPLICANT** at an institution in the State; **OR**

(III) IS ~~A VETERAN~~ AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ON ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE UNITED STATES MILITARY WHO IS DOMICILED IN THIS STATE; and

(3) A private career school within the State that is approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission under § 11-202 of this article and that is accredited by a national accrediting association that is approved by the United States Department of Education.

18-503.

(a) During each term in office, each Delegate may award the equivalent of four 4-year full-time scholarships, which may be awarded for either 1-, 2-, 3-, or 4-year periods.

(b) (1) Each scholarship pays the tuition and mandatory fees at any eligible institution.

(2) The annual amount of a scholarship at a **PUBLIC OR** private institution or any graduate or professional program may not exceed the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees of an undergraduate program at the 4-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University College and University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus, with the highest annual expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor, May 4, 2017.