

HOUSE BILL 1609

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8lr1771

By: **Delegates Wilkins, Ali, Gaines, Luedtke, Morales, Mosby, Patterson,
A. Washington, and M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2018

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Professional License or Certification Exam Scholarship**
3 **Program – Established**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Professional License or Certification Exam Scholarship
5 Program; stating the purpose of the Program; requiring the Office of Student
6 Financial Assistance in the Maryland Higher Education Commission to administer
7 the Program; providing the eligibility criteria to receive a scholarship under the
8 Program; limiting the scholarship amount; requiring the Office to adopt guidelines
9 or regulations necessary to implement the Program; defining certain terms; and
10 generally relating to the Professional License or Certification Exam Scholarship
11 Program.

12 BY adding to
13 Article – Education
14 Section 18–709
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Education**

20 **18–709.**

21 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
22 **INDICATED.**

23 **(2) “EXAM FEE” MEANS THE FEE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL IS REQUIRED**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 TO PAY TO TAKE AN EXAMINATION THAT LEADS TO A PROFESSIONAL LICENSE OR
2 CERTIFICATION, INCLUDING AN EXAMINATION REQUIRED TO BE A LICENSED SOCIAL
3 WORKER, ATTORNEY, ACCOUNTANT, OR MEDICAL DOCTOR IN THE STATE.

4 (3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE PROFESSIONAL LICENSE OR
5 CERTIFICATION EXAM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

6 (B) (1) THERE IS A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM KNOWN AS THE
7 PROFESSIONAL LICENSE OR CERTIFICATION EXAM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

8 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WHO
9 PROVIDE A PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE STATE TO PAY FOR AN EXAM FEE.

10 (3) THE OFFICE SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

11 (C) AN INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE FOR A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE
12 PROGRAM IF:

13 (1) THE INDIVIDUAL HAS EARNED A GRADUATE, PROFESSIONAL, OR
14 DOCTORAL DEGREE FROM AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE
15 STATE;

16 (2) THE INDIVIDUAL SIGNS A LETTER OF INTENT TO BE EMPLOYED IN
17 THE STATE IN A PUBLIC SERVICE CAPACITY FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR;

18 (3) IN THE PRIOR YEAR, THE INDIVIDUAL HAD A FEDERAL ADJUSTED
19 GROSS INCOME OF NOT MORE THAN \$39,000 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL OR \$78,000 FOR A
20 MARRIED COUPLE FILING A JOINT INCOME TAX RETURN;

21 (4) THE INDIVIDUAL HAS NOT RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE
22 PROGRAM IN A PRIOR YEAR; AND

23 (5) THE INDIVIDUAL'S EMPLOYER DOES NOT REIMBURSE THE
24 INDIVIDUAL FOR THE EXAM FEE.

25 (D) THE SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDED TO AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE
26 PROGRAM MAY NOT EXCEED THE LESSER OF THE EXAM FEE OR \$500.

27 (E) THE OFFICE SHALL ADOPT GUIDELINES OR REGULATIONS NECESSARY
28 TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2018.