

SENATE BILL 261

F2
SB 678/17 – EHE & B&T

8lr0309
CF 8lr1951

By: **Senators Young, Benson, Conway, Currie, Feldman, Ferguson, Guzzone, King, Lee, Madaleno, Manno, Mathias, McFadden, Muse, Nathan–Pulliam, Oaks, Peters, Pinsky, Ramirez, Robinson, Rosapepe, Smith, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Colleges – Vocational Certificates, Apprenticeship Training**
3 **Programs, and Associate Degrees – Tuition Assistance**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Community College Vocational Certificate,
5 Apprenticeship Training Program, and Associate’s Degree Tuition Assistance
6 Program; specifying that participation in the Program is voluntary and shall be
7 determined by certain counties in consultation with certain community colleges;
8 requiring certain counties to notify the Governor and the Secretary of Budget and
9 Management of the intention to participate in the Program on or before a certain
10 date; specifying the qualifications of eligible individuals for the Program; requiring
11 certain individuals to submit a certain application for certain financial aid; requiring
12 certain community colleges to assist certain individuals with a certain application
13 under certain circumstances; requiring certain individuals to enroll at a community
14 college within a certain period of time, to be counted in certain computations under
15 certain circumstances, to participate in certain mentoring assistance under certain
16 circumstances, to complete at least a certain number of hours of community service
17 with certain organizations, and to submit a certain letter to a certain community
18 college and the Maryland Higher Education Commission under certain
19 circumstances; providing for the duration of the tuition assistance under the
20 Program, subject to a certain exception; specifying how financial aid shall be applied
21 for individuals who receive tuition assistance; requiring certain community colleges
22 to calculate certain amounts of tuition assistance under certain circumstances;
23 requiring the Governor annually to include a certain appropriation in the State
24 budget for the Program beginning in a certain fiscal year; requiring a certain county
25 and the State to reimburse community colleges for certain tuition assistance;
26 defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Community College Vocational
27 Certificate, Apprenticeship Training Program, and Associate’s Degree Tuition
28 Assistance Program.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY adding to
2 Article – Education
3 Section 16–106.1
4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

8 **Article – Education**

9 **16–106.1.**

10 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
11 INDICATED.

12 (2) “APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM” MEANS COURSES TAKEN
13 AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS PART OF A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING
14 PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COUNCIL WITHIN
15 THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND REGULATION OR BY THE U.S.
16 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

17 (3) “COMMUNITY COLLEGE” INCLUDES BALTIMORE CITY
18 COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

19 (4) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE VOCATIONAL
20 CERTIFICATE, APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM, AND ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE
21 TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

22 (5) (I) “TUITION” MEANS THE BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL CHARGE FOR
23 COURSES OFFERED AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

24 (II) “TUITION” INCLUDES:

- 25 1. FEES FOR REGISTRATION;
- 26 2. FEES FOR APPLICATION;
- 27 3. FEES FOR ADMINISTRATION;
- 28 4. FEES FOR LABORATORY WORK; AND
- 29 5. OTHER MANDATORY FEES.

1 **(6) "TUITION ASSISTANCE" MEANS A WAIVER OF A PORTION OF AN**
2 **INDIVIDUAL'S TUITION BY A COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**

3 **(B) THERE IS A COMMUNITY COLLEGE VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE,**
4 **APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM, AND ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE TUITION**
5 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE STATE.**

6 **(C) (1) PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM IS VOLUNTARY.**

7 **(2) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A COUNTY**
8 **SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM, IN**
9 **CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE THAT SERVES THE COUNTY.**

10 **(3) A COUNTY THAT DECIDES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM**
11 **SHALL NOTIFY THE GOVERNOR AND THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND**
12 **MANAGEMENT AT LEAST 1 YEAR IN ADVANCE OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE ACADEMIC**
13 **SEMESTER IN WHICH THE COUNTY WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.**

14 **(D) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:**

15 **(I) HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF THE STATE FOR AT LEAST 2**
16 **YEARS BEFORE ENROLLING AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE;**

17 **(II) 1. GRADUATED FROM A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE HIGH**
18 **SCHOOL IN A COUNTY THAT ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM;**

19 **2. HAS EARNED A GED; OR**

20 **3. HAS COMPLETED A HOME INSTRUCTION PROGRAM**
21 **THAT MEETS ANY STATE AND COUNTY REQUIREMENTS FOR HOME INSTRUCTION**
22 **PROGRAMS;**

23 **(III) HAS AN ANNUAL MARYLAND ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME OF**
24 **NO MORE THAN TWICE THE MARYLAND MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME;**

25 **(IV) HAS EARNED A MINIMUM GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF:**

26 **1. 2.0 ON A SCALE OF 4.0 IF THE INDIVIDUAL HAS AN**
27 **ANNUAL MARYLAND ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME THAT IS AT OR BELOW 130% OF THE**
28 **FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL; OR**

29 **2. 2.5 ON A SCALE OF 4.0 IF THE INDIVIDUAL HAS AN**
30 **ANNUAL MARYLAND ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME THAT IS MORE THAN 130% OF THE**

1 FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL; AND

2 (v) ENROLLS AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

3 1. AS A CANDIDATE FOR:

4 A. A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE TO BE COMPLETED
5 WITHIN 2 YEARS; OR

6 B. AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN
7 4 YEARS; OR

8 2. AS PART OF AN APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING
9 PROGRAM.

10 (2) AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
11 SUBSECTION SHALL:

12 (i) SUBMIT A TIMELY APPLICATION FOR ANY STATE OR
13 FEDERAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, OTHER THAN A STUDENT LOAN, FOR WHICH THE
14 INDIVIDUAL MAY QUALIFY; AND

15 (ii) BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE TUITION ASSISTANCE UNDER THE
16 PROGRAM.

17 (3) ON REQUEST, A COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL ASSIST AN
18 INDIVIDUAL WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF PARAGRAPH (2)(i) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

19 (E) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM SHALL:

20 (1) WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF OBTAINING A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR
21 GED OR HAVING COMPLETED A HOME INSTRUCTION PROGRAM AS SPECIFIED
22 UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(1)(ii)3 OF THIS SECTION, ENROLL AT A COMMUNITY
23 COLLEGE:

24 (i) AS A CANDIDATE FOR:

25 1. A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE; OR

26 2. AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE; OR

27 (ii) AS PART OF AN APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM;

1 **(2) BE COUNTED IN COMPUTING FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT**
2 **ENROLLMENT UNDER § 16-305 OF THIS TITLE IF THE INDIVIDUAL ENROLLS IN A**
3 **CLASS THAT IS ELIGIBLE UNDER § 16-305 OF THIS TITLE FOR STATE SUPPORT AT**
4 **THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE;**

5 **(3) BE COUNTED IN COMPUTING FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT**
6 **ENROLLMENT UNDER § 16-512 OF THIS TITLE IF THE INDIVIDUAL ENROLLS IN A**
7 **CLASS THAT IS ELIGIBLE UNDER § 16-512 OF THIS TITLE FOR STATE SUPPORT AT**
8 **BALTIMORE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE;**

9 **(4) PARTICIPATE IN MENTORING ASSISTANCE DURING THE FIRST**
10 **YEAR OF ENROLLMENT IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IF THE INDIVIDUAL'S GRADE**
11 **POINT AVERAGE WAS LESS THAN 2.5 ON A SCALE OF 4.0 WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL; AND**

12 **(5) (I) COMPLETE AT LEAST 15 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE**
13 **PER SEMESTER WITH A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION OR A GOVERNMENTAL UNIT, AS**
14 **DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER REGULATIONS ADOPTED IN**
15 **ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION; AND**

16 **(II) SUBMIT A LETTER FROM THE SPONSOR OF THE COMMUNITY**
17 **SERVICE PERFORMED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS ITEM TO THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
18 **AND THE COMMISSION IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM DURING THE**
19 **NEXT SEMESTER.**

20 **(F) (1) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (D)(1)(V) OF THIS SECTION AND**
21 **PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES TUITION**
22 **ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE TUITION**
23 **ASSISTANCE UNTIL THE INDIVIDUAL IS AWARDED A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE OR**
24 **AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE OR COMPLETES THE APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING**
25 **PROGRAM.**

26 **(2) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN**
27 **INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE TUITION ASSISTANCE IF THE**
28 **INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT EARN A MINIMUM GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 2.0 ON A SCALE**
29 **OF 4.0.**

30 **(G) (1) ANY STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, OTHER THAN A STUDENT LOAN,**
31 **RECEIVED BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES TUITION ASSISTANCE UNDER THE**
32 **PROGRAM SHALL BE APPLIED FIRST TO PAY THE INDIVIDUAL'S TUITION.**

33 **(2) FOR AN INDIVIDUAL IN AN APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM,**
34 **ANY FINANCIAL AID THAT IS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSOR OF THE APPRENTICESHIP**
35 **TRAINING PROGRAM SHALL BE APPLIED FIRST TO PAY THE INDIVIDUAL'S TUITION.**

1 **(3) THE TUITION ASSISTANCE AN INDIVIDUAL RECEIVES UNDER THE**
2 **PROGRAM SHALL APPLY TO THE DIFFERENCE, IF ANY, BETWEEN THE CHARGE FOR**
3 **TUITION AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE FINANCIAL AID AWARD, NOT**
4 **INCLUDING A STUDENT LOAN, THAT THE INDIVIDUAL RECEIVES.**

5 **(H) (1) A COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL CALCULATE THE AMOUNT OF**
6 **TUITION ASSISTANCE IT PROVIDES EACH FISCAL YEAR UNDER THE PROGRAM.**

7 **(2) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A COMMUNITY**
8 **COLLEGE IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF TUITION**
9 **ASSISTANCE CALCULATED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

10 **(3) THE TUITION ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF**
11 **THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE PAID:**

12 **(I) 50% FROM THE STATE; AND**

13 **(II) 50% FROM THE PARTICIPATING COUNTY.**

14 **(4) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR**
15 **THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET**
16 **FOR THE PROGRAM AN APPROPRIATION IN AN AMOUNT AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE**
17 **AMOUNT CALCULATED UNDER PARAGRAPH (3)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR ALL**
18 **PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM.**

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
20 1, 2018.