

# SENATE BILL 842

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8lr3744  
CF HB 781

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By: **Senator Conway**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 13, 2018

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Educational Excellence Award Eligibility – High School**  
3 **Diploma by Examination**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~specifying that a certain requirement to obtain a high school diploma~~  
5 ~~shall be satisfied if a certain individual has obtained a high school diploma by~~  
6 ~~examination~~ exempting certain individuals from certain requirements relating to the  
7 Guaranteed Access Grant, subject to certain qualifications; requiring certain  
8 individuals to meet certain qualifications under certain circumstances; altering a  
9 certain age for eligibility for the Guaranteed Access Grant under certain  
10 circumstances; providing for a delayed effective date for a certain provision of this  
11 Act; and generally relating to the eligibility for a Delegate Howard P. Rawlings  
12 Educational Excellence Award.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
14 Article – Education  
15 Section 18–301(a)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

18 ~~BY adding to~~  
19 ~~Article – Education~~  
20 ~~Section 18–303.2~~  
21 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
22 ~~(2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)~~

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

2 Article – Education

3 Section 18–303

4 Annotated Code of Maryland

5 (2018 Replacement Volume)

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

7 Article – Education

8 Section 18–303(c)

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2018 Replacement Volume)

11 (As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

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

14 **Article – Education**

15 18–301.

16 (a) There is a Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Program of Educational Excellence  
17 Awards in this State that are awarded under this subtitle.

18 ~~18–303.2.~~

19 ~~A REQUIREMENT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE TO OBTAIN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA~~  
20 ~~SHALL BE SATISFIED IF THE INDIVIDUAL HAS SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINED A HIGH~~  
21 ~~SCHOOL DIPLOMA BY EXAMINATION UNDER § 11-808 OF THE LABOR AND~~  
22 ~~EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.~~

23 18–303.

24 (a) Subject to subsection [(d)] (E) of this section, each recipient of a Delegate  
25 Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Award shall:

26 (1) Be accepted for admission in the regular undergraduate program at an  
27 eligible institution or be enrolled in a 2–year associate degree program in which the course  
28 work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible  
29 institution;

30 (2) Be a resident of this State;

31 (3) Demonstrate to the Office a definite financial need; and

32 (4) Accept any other conditions attached to the award.

1           **(b) [Each] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION,**  
2 **EACH** recipient of a Guaranteed Access Grant shall:

3           **(1) Have attained a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or its**  
4 **equivalent at the end of the first semester of the senior year in high school and have**  
5 **completed high school or, failing to do so, on the recommendation of the recipient's high**  
6 **school principal, provide evidence satisfactory to the Office of extenuating circumstances;**

7           **(2) Begin college within 1 year of completing high school or, failing to do**  
8 **so, provide evidence satisfactory to the Office of extenuating circumstances;**

9           **(3) Be under the age of 22 years at the time of receiving the first award;**

10           **(4) Have successfully completed a college preparatory program in high**  
11 **school;**

12           **(5) Enroll in college as a full-time student;**

13           **(6) Subject to subsection ~~[(c)] (D)~~ of this section, have an annual family**  
14 **income below a poverty index determined by the Commission; and**

15           **(7) Satisfy any additional criteria the Commission may establish.**

16           **(C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN**  
17 **INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA BY**  
18 **EXAMINATION UNDER § 11-808 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE IS**  
19 **EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

20           **(2) AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
21 **SUBSECTION IS ELIGIBLE FOR A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT IF THE INDIVIDUAL:**

22           **(I) HAS SCORED A PASSING SCORE OF AT LEAST 165 PER**  
23 **MODULE ON THE DIPLOMA BY EXAMINATION;**

24           **(II) BEGINS COLLEGE WITHIN 1 YEAR OF ACHIEVING THE SCORE**  
25 **DESCRIBED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH OR, FAILING TO DO SO, PROVIDES**  
26 **EVIDENCE SATISFACTORY TO THE OFFICE OF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES;**

27           **(III) IS UNDER THE AGE OF 26 YEARS AT THE TIME OF RECEIVING**  
28 **THE FIRST AWARD;**

29           **(IV) ENROLLS IN COLLEGE AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT; AND**

1                    (V) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, HAS AN  
 2 ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME BELOW A POVERTY INDEX DETERMINED BY THE  
 3 COMMISSION.

4            [(c)] (D) To determine the annual family income eligibility of an applicant for a  
 5 Guaranteed Access Grant, the Office may not consider an amount received by the applicant  
 6 as an earned income credit under § 32 of the Internal Revenue Code.

7            [(d)] (E) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a student  
 8 in grade 7 or grade 8 who applies and qualifies for a Guaranteed Access Grant on the basis  
 9 of financial need as established by the Commission shall prequalify for a Guaranteed Access  
 10 Grant to be used at the time of enrollment in an institution of higher education by agreeing  
 11 in writing, as a secondary and undergraduate student, to:

12                    (i) Satisfy the attendance policy of the applicable school;

13                    (ii) Refrain from substance abuse;

14                    (iii) Provide information required by the Commission or the State  
 15 Board of Education;

16                    (iv) Apply for admission to an institution of higher education during  
 17 the student's senior year of high school;

18                    (v) Complete and file on a timely basis applications for federal  
 19 student aid for each year that the student plans to enroll in postsecondary education;

20                    (vi) Participate in the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland  
 21 Program established in § 18-303.1 of this subtitle until the student graduates from high  
 22 school and matriculates at an institution of higher education;

23                    (vii) Maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a  
 24 4.0 scale or its equivalent; and

25                    (viii) Satisfy any other program requirements set by the Office, the  
 26 Commission, the State Board of Education, or the State Department of Education.

27            (2) For academic years 2017–2018 and 2018–2019, a student in grade 9  
 28 who applies and qualifies for a Guaranteed Access Grant on the basis of financial need as  
 29 established by the Commission shall prequalify for a Guaranteed Access Grant to be used  
 30 at the time of enrollment in an institution of higher education if the student otherwise  
 31 meets the conditions of paragraph (1) of this subsection.

32            SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
 33 as follows:

1 18-303.

2 (c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, an individual who has  
 3 successfully obtained a high school diploma by examination under § 11-808 of the Labor  
 4 and Employment Article is exempt from the requirements of subsection (b) of this section.

5 (2) An individual described under paragraph (1) of this subsection is  
 6 eligible for a Guaranteed Access Grant if the individual:

7 (i) Has scored a passing score of at least 165 per module on the  
 8 diploma by examination;

9 (ii) Begins college within 1 year of achieving the score described  
 10 under item (i) of this paragraph or, failing to do so, provides evidence satisfactory to the  
 11 Office of extenuating circumstances;

12 (iii) Is under the age of [26] 22 years at the time of receiving the first  
 13 award;

14 (iv) Enrolls in college as a full-time student; and

15 (v) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, has an annual family  
 16 income below a poverty index determined by the Commission.

17 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take  
 18 effect July 1, 2022.

19 SECTION ~~2~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in  
 20 Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.