

Chapter 147

(Senate Bill 74)

AN ACT concerning

Higher Education – Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship – Alterations

FOR the purpose of repealing a certain requirement for applicants for and recipients of the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship; and generally relating to the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Education
 Section 18–603.1
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

18–603.1.

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

(2) “Eligible institution” means a public or private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State that possesses a certificate of approval from the Commission.

(3) “Fund” means the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship Fund.

(4) “Scholarship” means the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship.

(b) There is a Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship.

(c) An individual may apply to the Office for the scholarship if the individual:

(1) Is a resident of Maryland;

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

(ii) Is accepted for admission or 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; and

(3) Is actively engaged as a career or volunteer firefighter or ambulance or rescue squad member in an organized fire department or ambulance or rescue squad in the State.

(d) A scholarship awarded under this section:

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

(2) May be up to 100% of the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate student 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 for courses credited toward a degree in fire service technology, emergency medical technology, fire service management, or public safety administration with a minor or concentration in fire service technology or fire service management.

(e) A scholarship recipient shall maintain a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

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

[(g) A scholarship applicant or recipient shall file for federal and State financial aid by March 1 of each year.]

[(h) (G) A Senator or Delegate may authorize the Office to award all or a portion of the funds authorized under Subtitles 4 and 5 of this title to eligible recipients of scholarships awarded under this section.

[(i) (H) (1) Funds for the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship shall be as provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the Governor.

(2) There is a Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship Fund in the Commission.

(3) The Commission shall administer the Fund.

(4) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of

the State Finance and Procurement Article.

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

(6) The Commission:

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

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

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

(7) (i) At the end of the fiscal year, the Commission shall prepare an annual report on the Fund that includes an accounting of all financial receipts and expenditures to and from the Fund.

(ii) The Commission shall submit a copy of the report to the General Assembly in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

[(j)] (I) A recipient of a scholarship shall work for at least 1 year as a volunteer or career firefighter or ambulance or rescue squad member in an organized fire department or ambulance or rescue squad in the State after completion of an eligible program in an eligible institution.

[(k)] (J) A scholarship recipient shall repay the Commission the funds received under this section if the recipient does not perform the service obligation required under subsection **[(j)] (I)** of this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2019.