

SENATE BILL 260

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9lr1484

By: **Senators Pinsky, Ferguson, King, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2019

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Colleges – Maryland Community College Promise Scholarships –**
3 **Revisions**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility requirements for a Maryland Community College
5 Promise Scholarship; providing that certain eligible recipients remain eligible for the
6 scholarship in a certain academic year notwithstanding certain eligibility criteria
7 under certain circumstances; altering the employment requirements relating to a
8 service obligation associated with a scholarship; authorizing a recipient to satisfy
9 certain requirements relating to a service obligation associated with a scholarship
10 under certain circumstances; authorizing a recipient to hold an award if the recipient
11 continues to enroll in a certain sequence of courses; altering the contents of a certain
12 report; and generally relating to Maryland Community College Promise
13 Scholarships.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Education
16 Section 18–3603(b), 18–3604(b) through (d), and 18–3607
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Education**

22 18–3603.

23 (b) An applicant is eligible for a Maryland Community College Promise
24 Scholarship if the applicant:

25 (1) Is eligible for in–State tuition;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) Enrolls as a candidate for a vocational certificate, a certificate, or an
2 associate's degree [at a community college in the State] within 2 years after graduating
3 from a high school or successfully completing a GED in the State:

4 **(I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ITEM (II) OF THIS ITEM, AT THE**
5 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OR, IN THE CASE OF A REGIONAL**
6 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE, IN THE REGION, WHERE THE APPLICANT LIVES; OR**

7 **(II) IF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OR**
8 **REGION WHERE THE APPLICANT LIVES DOES NOT OFFER THE DEGREE OR**
9 **CERTIFICATION PROGRAM IN WHICH THE APPLICANT WANTS TO ENROLL, THEN AT**
10 **ANY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE THAT OFFERS THE PROGRAM;**

11 (3) Has earned an overall high school grade point average of at least 2.3 on
12 a 4.0 scale or its equivalent;

13 (4) Has an annual adjusted gross income of not more than:

14 (i) \$100,000 if the applicant is single or resides in a single-parent
15 household; or

16 (ii) \$150,000 if the applicant is married or resides in a two-parent
17 household;

18 (5) Enrolls in [at]:

19 **(I) AT least 12 credits per semester at the community college; OR**

20 **(II) A SEQUENCE OF CREDIT OR NONCREDIT COURSES THAT**
21 **LEAD TO LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION; and**

22 (6) (i) Timely submits a Free Application for Federal Student Aid
23 (FAFSA) or any other applications for any State or federal student financial aid, other than
24 a student loan, for which the applicant may qualify; or

25 (ii) Is ineligible to submit a FAFSA, qualifies for in-State tuition
26 under § 15-106.8 of this article, and timely submits an application for any State student
27 financial aid, other than a student loan, for which the applicant may qualify.

28 18-3604.

29 (b) (1) Any student financial aid, other than a student loan, received by the
30 recipient shall be credited to the recipient's tuition before the calculation of any award
31 amount provided under this subtitle.

1 (2) (i) 1. Initial awards shall be provided to recipients based on
2 greatest demonstrated financial need.

3 2. Priority for awards in subsequent years shall be given to
4 prior year recipients who remain eligible for the program.

5 **3. NOTWITHSTANDING § 18-3603(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE,**
6 **AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT WHO DOES NOT RECEIVE AN AWARD UNDER THIS**
7 **SUBPARAGRAPH DUE TO INSUFFICIENT FUNDING OF THE PROGRAM REMAINS**
8 **ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM THE FOLLOWING ACADEMIC YEAR.**

9 (ii) Eligible applicants who do not receive an award under this
10 subtitle shall be notified and placed on a waiting list.

11 (c) An award under this subtitle may be made only if a recipient signs an
12 agreement at the time of the initial award to:

13 (1) Use an address in the State on the recipient's State income tax return
14 and commence full-time employment [in the State] within 1 year after completion of the
15 **LATER OF:**

16 **(I) THE vocational certificate, certificate, or associate's degree; OR**

17 **(II) IF A RECIPIENT HAS ATTAINED AT LEAST 48 CREDITS AT**
18 **THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND TRANSFERRED TO A 4-YEAR PUBLIC INSTITUTION,**
19 **A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE;**

20 (2) Continue to use an address in the State on the recipient's State income
21 tax return and maintain employment [in the State] for at least 1 year for each year that
22 the scholarship was awarded; and

23 (3) Have the scholarship award converted into a student loan payable to
24 the State if the recipient fails to fulfill the service obligation required in items (1) and (2) of
25 this subsection.

26 (d) (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, each recipient may
27 hold the award until the earlier of:

28 (i) 3 years after first enrolling as a candidate for a vocational
29 certificate, a certificate, or an associate's degree at a community college in the State; or

30 (ii) The date that the individual is awarded an associate's degree.

31 (2) The Office may extend the duration of an award for an allowable
32 interruption of study if the recipient provides to the Office satisfactory evidence of
33 extenuating circumstances that prevent the recipient from continuous enrollment.

1 (3) Each recipient may hold the award in accordance with paragraph (1) of
2 this subsection only if the recipient:

3 (i) Continues to be eligible for in-State tuition;

4 (ii) Continues to enroll in and complete at least 12 credits per
5 semester, **OR A SEQUENCE OF CREDIT OR NONCREDIT COURSES THAT LEAD TO**
6 **LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION**, or [its] **THEIR** equivalent, as determined by the Office;

7 (iii) Maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a
8 4.0 scale or its equivalent for the remainder of the award or, failing to do so, provides to the
9 Office satisfactory evidence of extenuating circumstances;

10 (iv) Makes satisfactory progress toward a vocational certificate, a
11 certificate, or an associate's degree;

12 (v) Continues to meet the income limitations under § 18-3603(b)(4)
13 of this subtitle; and

14 (vi) Continues to timely submit an application under § 18-3603(b)(6)
15 of this subtitle.

16 18-3607.

17 On or before December 1, 2020, and each December 1 thereafter, the Commission
18 shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
19 Article, on the implementation of the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship
20 program, including:

21 (1) The number of applicants who received a Maryland Community College
22 Promise Scholarship in the academic year **DISAGGREGATED BY THE COMMUNITY**
23 **COLLEGE AT WHICH THE SCHOLARSHIP WAS USED**;

24 (2) The number of scholarship recipients enrolled in an associate's degree
25 program;

26 (3) The number of scholarship recipients enrolled in a vocational certificate
27 program;

28 (4) The number of scholarship recipients enrolled in a certificate program;

29 (5) The amount of the award made to each scholarship recipient;

30 (6) The number of eligible applicants, if any, who were placed on a waiting
31 list and the amount of demonstrated financial need, in the aggregate, of those applicants;

1 (7) The number of scholarship recipients who earned an associate's degree
2 within 2, 3, or 4 years after receiving an award;

3 (8) The number of scholarship recipients who earned a vocational
4 certificate within 1, 2, or 3 years after receiving an award;

5 (9) The number of scholarship recipients who transferred to a 4-year
6 institution in the State; [and]

7 **(10) THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS WHO RECEIVED A**
8 **BACCALAUREATE DEGREE AFTER TRANSFERRING TO A 4-YEAR INSTITUTION IN THE**
9 **STATE;**

10 **(11) THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR WHICH THE**
11 **SERVICE OBLIGATION WAS DEFERRED, WAIVED, OR CONVERTED INTO A STUDENT**
12 **LOAN; AND**

13 **[(10)] (12)** The actual and potential impact of the program on enrollment
14 rates at community colleges and 4-year public institutions in the State.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
16 1, 2019.