SENATE BILL 538

By: Senator Guzzone
Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2021
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Community College Tuition and Residency Waivers – Funding

FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor, beginning in a certain fiscal year, to include in the annual State budget for the Maryland Higher Education Commission a General Fund appropriation of a certain amount to fund certain community college tuition and residency waivers; requiring the Commission to distribute the appropriation to each community college board of trustees based on the number of qualifying students enrolled in each community college in proportion to the total number of qualifying students, as determined by the Commission; requiring the Commission to adopt certain regulations or guidelines; defining a certain term; and generally relating to community college funding for State–mandated tuition and residency waivers.

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section 16–322
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

16–322.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “QUALIFYING STUDENT” MEANS A COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT WHO RECEIVES A TUITION OR RESIDENCY WAIVER AS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

(1) A FOSTER CARE RECIPIENT OR AN UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS
YOUTH UNDER § 15–106.1 OF THIS ARTICLE;

(2) A United States armed forces active duty member, the spouse or child of an armed forces active duty member, a United States armed forces veteran who has been honorably discharged, or a member of the National Guard under § 15–106.4 of this article;

(3) The son or daughter of a State or local public safety employee under § 15–106.7 of this article;

(4) A senior citizen under § 16–106(b) of this title;

(5) An individual with a disability under § 16–106(c) of this title;

(6) A student enrolled in an education program leading to licensure in nursing under § 16–310(a)(4) of this subtitle;

(7) A public school teacher under § 16–310(a)(6) of this subtitle; or

(8) A student enrolled in an instructional program that the Commission designates as a health manpower shortage program under § 16–310(d) of this subtitle.

(B) For fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill for the Commission an appropriation of $10,000,000 to fund State–mandated tuition and residency waivers for community colleges.

(C) The Commission shall distribute the appropriation required under subsection (b) of this section to each board of trustees based on the number of enrolled qualifying students at each community college in proportion to the total number of enrolled qualifying students, as determined by the Commission.

(D) The Commission shall adopt any regulations or guidelines necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021.