

HB0734/733821/1

BY: Appropriations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 734
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 4, after “of” insert “requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to focus on certain individuals in the near completer communication campaign for certain academic years;”; in the same line, strike “Maryland Higher Education”; strike beginning with “altering” in line 8 down through “Grant;” in line 9; strike beginning with “with” in line 11 down through “Awards;” in line 14 and substitute “if a certain condition is met; authorizing a private career school to award scholarships under the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program; altering the eligibility requirements for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship to include stepchildren of certain individuals; requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill certain appropriations to the Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program, the Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards, and the Edward T. Conroy and Jean B. Cryor Scholarship Fund;”; in line 18, after “Section” insert “11-209(a), 11-1101(c),”; in the same line, strike the third “and”; in the same line, after the second “(e)” insert “, 18-601(a), (b), (c), and (f), 18-604(a) and (b), and 18-2102”; in line 23, after “Section” insert “11-209(b), 11-1107,”; in the same line, strike “18-304(c)” and substitute “18-304(c)(3)(ii) and (iii), 18-601(d)(1), 18-604(c), 18-2106”; and in line 28, strike “18-304(d)” and substitute “18-304(c)(3)(iv) and (d) and 18-601(i)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, after line 5, insert:

“11-209.”

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(a) In this section, “near completer” means an individual who has completed some college credits but does not have a college degree and is no longer attending an institution of higher education.

(b) (1) (i) The Commission, in collaboration with institutions of higher education, shall create a statewide communication campaign to identify near completers in the State and to encourage near completers to re-enroll in an institution of higher education to earn a degree.

(ii) For each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, the Governor shall include in the State budget \$125,000 to the Commission to fund a statewide communication campaign.

(2) The communication campaign shall:

(i) Make use of a variety of marketing media, including billboards, brochures, and electronic resources;

(ii) Provide a centralized contact point for near completers to get information about and assistance with re-enrolling;

(iii) Make readily available contact information for each public institution of higher education in the State; [and]

(iv) Focus on near completers who:

1. Earned a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a scale of 4.0 while in college; and

2. A. Earned at least 45 credit hours if the individual attended a community college; or

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B. Earned at least 90 credit hours if the individual attended a senior higher education institution; AND

(V) FOR THE 2022–2023 AND 2023–2024 ACADEMIC YEARS, FOCUS ON NEAR COMPLETERS WHO ARE NO LONGER ATTENDING AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION BECAUSE OF PERSONAL OR FINANCIAL REASONS RELATED TO THE COVID–19 PANDEMIC.

11–1101.

(c) “Program” means the Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program.

11–1107.

(A) For fiscal year 2023 [and each fiscal year thereafter], the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$200,000 for the Program.

(B) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 FOR THE PROGRAM.”;

in line 28, after “GRANT” insert “TO A STUDENT WHO PREQUALIFIED FOR THE AWARD UNDER SUBSECTION (E)(1) OR (2) OF THIS SECTION”; and in line 30, strike “UNDER SUBSECTION (E)(1) OF THIS SECTION.”.

On page 5, strike in their entirety lines 10 through 26, inclusive; and in line 27, before “(ii)” insert “(c) (3)”.

On page 6, in line 17, after the first “THE” insert “FULL”; strike beginning with the comma in line 18 down through “COMMISSION” in line 19 and substitute “IF THE”

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RECIPIENT REMAINS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A FEDERAL PELL GRANT"; in line 20, after "2024" insert "AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER"; in line 21, strike "\$75,000,000" and substitute "AT LEAST \$112,000,000"; and after line 23, insert:

"18-601.

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

(2) "Disabled public safety employee" means a State or local public safety employee who sustains an injury in the line of duty that:

(i) Precludes the individual from continuing to serve or be employed as a State or local public safety employee; and

(ii) In the case of a volunteer member of a fire department or ambulance or rescue company or squad, precludes the member from continuing to be employed in the nonpublic safety occupation in which the member is engaged at the time of the injury.

(3) "Fund" means the Edward T. Conroy and Jean B. Cryor Scholarship Fund.

(4) "School employee" includes an employee of a public or nonpublic school in the State.

(5) "State or local public safety employee" means a person who is employed in the State as:

(i) A career or volunteer member of a:

1. Fire department;

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2. Ambulance company or squad; or

3. Rescue company or squad;

(ii) A law enforcement officer;

(iii) A correctional officer; or

(iv) A member of the Maryland National Guard who was a resident of this State at the time of death.

(6) “Surviving spouse” means a person who has not remarried.

(7) “Victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks” means a Maryland resident who was killed as a result of the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the attack on the Pentagon in Virginia, or the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania.

(b) There is a program of scholarships that are awarded by eligible postsecondary institutions under this section.

(c) (1) The program for military and public safety personnel and their eligible dependents is the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program.

(2) The program for eligible dependents of public and nonpublic school employees is the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program.

(d) (1) A person may apply to an eligible postsecondary institution for a scholarship under this section if the person:

(i) 1. Is accepted for admission or enrolled in the regular

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undergraduate, graduate or professional program at an eligible institution; [or]

2. Is 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; OR

3. IS ENROLLED IN A PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOL;

(ii) Is at least 16 years old; and

(iii) Meets the other eligibility criteria specified in this section.

(f) (1) Each postsecondary institution shall determine the eligibility of persons who apply to the institution for the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program.

(2) Funds for the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program shall be allocated by the Commission to each postsecondary institution based on the number of eligible recipients attending each institution.

(3) In October and February of each year, each postsecondary institution shall report to the Commission the number of eligible recipients attending the institution.

(4) The Commission shall allocate funds for awards to postsecondary institutions upon verification of eligible recipients attending the institutions.

(5) If funds cannot be allocated in the fiscal year in which awards are made, priority shall be given to allocating funds for those awards in the following fiscal year.

(I) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST \$4,000,000 TO THE FUND.

18-604.

(a) For purposes of this section, an individual served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict if the individual was a member of the uniformed services of the United States who served in:

(1) Afghanistan or contiguous air space, as defined in federal regulations, on or after October 24, 2001, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense; or

(2) Iraq or contiguous waters or air space, as defined in federal regulations, on or after March 19, 2003, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense.

(b) There is a Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship.

(c) An individual may apply to the Office for a scholarship under this section 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

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(3) (i) 1. Is a veteran, as defined under § 9–901 of the State Government Article, who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict;

2. Is an active duty member of the armed forces who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

3. Is a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States or the Maryland National Guard who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict described in subsection (a) of this section; or

(ii) Is a son, daughter, **STEPSON, STEPDAUGHTER**, or spouse of:

1. A veteran or active duty member of the armed forces who is serving or has served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

2. A member of the reserve or Maryland National Guard who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict described in subsection (a) of this section.

18–2102.

There is a James Proctor Scholarship Program in the State.

18–2106.

(a) The Governor [may] **SHALL** include in the [State] **ANNUAL** budget **BILL** an appropriation **OF AT LEAST \$400,000** [for scholarships under] **TO** the Program **FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS.**

(b) These funds appropriated under subsection (a) of this section shall be divided and distributed equally to each HBCU.”.