

SENATE BILL 949

E4, F2

2lr2105

By: Senator Smith

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2022

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Police Officers – Education Requirements – Certification and Scholarships**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing certain degree requirements for certification and
4 recertification as a police officer; requiring law enforcement agencies to provide
5 work-related administrative leave to certain police officers and to develop and
6 implement certain recruitment policies; establishing the Continuing Education for
7 Police Officers Scholarship, the Police Officers Educational Benefit Scholarship I,
8 and the Police Officers Educational Benefit Scholarship II; and generally relating to
9 police officer certification and scholarships.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

11 Article – Public Safety

12 Section 3–201(a) and (b)

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

16 Article – Public Safety

17 Section 3–207(a)(20) and 3–209(a)(3) and (4) and (b)

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

20 BY adding to

21 Article – Public Safety

22 Section 3–209(a)(4) and 3–209.3

23 Annotated Code of Maryland

24 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

25 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

26 Article – Education

27 Section 18–101(a), (b), and (c)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Annotated Code of Maryland (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

7 adding to
Article – Education
Section 18–3901 through 18–3905 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 39.
Scholarships for Police Officers and Their Dependents”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Public Safety

12 3-201.

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

14 (b) "Commission" means the Maryland Police Training and Standards
15 Commission.

16 3-207.

(a) The Commission has the following powers and duties:

**(II) TO REQUIRE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO DEVELOP
POLICIES FOR RECRUITMENT AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES
IN THE STATE:**

25 3-209.

(a) The Commission shall certify as a police officer each individual who:

27 (3) submits to a criminal history records check in accordance with §
28 3-209.1 of this subtitle: [and]

31 [4] (5) (j) is a United States citizen; or

(ii) subject to subsection (b) of this section, is a permanent legal resident of the United States and an honorably discharged veteran of the United States armed forces, provided that the individual has applied to obtain United States citizenship and the application is still pending approval.

5 (b) (1) The certification of a police officer who fails to obtain United States
6 citizenship as required by subsection [(a)(4)(ii)] (A)(5)(II) of this section shall be
7 terminated by the Commission.

11 3-209.3.

12 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "APPLICANT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS SEEKING
13 CERTIFICATION AS A POLICE OFFICER.

14 (B) AN APPLICANT FOR CERTIFICATION AS A POLICE OFFICER SHALL AT
15 MINIMUM HOLD AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE.

16 (C) A POLICE OFFICER SHALL AT MINIMUM HOLD A BACHELOR'S DEGREE
17 WITHIN 6 YEARS OF BEING CERTIFIED.

18 (D) EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL PROVIDE REASONABLE
19 WORK-RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE, AS PROVIDED IN § 2-410 OF THIS
20 ARTICLE, TO A POLICE OFFICER WHO IS ATTEMPTING TO SATISFY THE DEGREE
21 REQUIREMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

22 (E) (1) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2023, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER,
23 EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
24 CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES ON THE EDUCATION LEVEL OF
25 ALL POLICE OFFICERS EMPLOYED BY THE AGENCY.

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

Article – Education

2 18-101.

- (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) "Commission" means the Maryland Higher Education Commission.
- (c) "Office" means the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

SUBTITLE 39. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POLICE OFFICERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

7 18-3901.

8 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
9 INDICATED.

10 (B) "ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION" MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NONPROFIT
11 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE THAT POSSESSES A
12 CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FROM THE COMMISSION.

13 (c) "POLICE OFFICER" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3-201 OF THE
14 PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.

15 (D) "TECHNICAL INFRACTION" MEANS A MINOR RULE VIOLATION BY A
16 POLICE OFFICER RELATED TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
17 THAT:

18 (1) DOES NOT INVOLVE AN INTERACTION BETWEEN A MEMBER OF
19 THE PUBLIC AND THE POLICE OFFICER;

(3) IS NOT OTHERWISE A MATTER OF PUBLIC CONCERN.

23 18-3902.

24 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "SCHOLARSHIP" MEANS THE CONTINUING
25 EDUCATION FOR POLICE OFFICERS SCHOLARSHIP.

26 (B) THERE IS A CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR POLICE OFFICERS
27 SCHOLARSHIP.

1 (C) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO THE OFFICE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP IF
2 THE INDIVIDUAL IS:

3 (1) A CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICER;

4 (2) ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION OR ENROLLED IN THE REGULAR
5 UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION; AND

6 (3) ATTEMPTING TO SATISFY THE DEGREE REQUIREMENT UNDER §
7 3-209.3(C) OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.

8 (D) ALL APPLICANTS WHO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN
9 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION SHALL RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP.

10 (E) A SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION:

11 (1) MAY BE USED FOR THE TUITION AND FEES AT ANY ELIGIBLE
12 INSTITUTION FOR UP TO 60 CREDITS TOWARD A BACHELOR'S DEGREE; AND

13 (2) MAY BE UP TO 100% OF THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL TUITION AND
14 FEES OF A RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
15 MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK CAMPUS.

16 18-3903.

17 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "SCHOLARSHIP" MEANS THE POLICE OFFICERS
18 EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP I.

19 (B) THERE IS A POLICE OFFICERS EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP
20 I.

21 (C) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO THE OFFICE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP IF
22 THE INDIVIDUAL IS:

23 (1) A CURRENT OR FORMER CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICER WHO:

24 (I) HAS BEEN EMPLOYED IN THAT CAPACITY FOR A MINIMUM
25 OF 5 YEARS;

26 (II) IS A CURRENT RESIDENT OF THE STATE; AND

27 (III) HAS NOT BEEN REPRIMANDED FOR MISCONDUCT
28 EXCLUDING TECHNICAL INFRACTIONS; OR

5 (D) ALL APPLICANTS WHO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN
6 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION SHALL RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP.

7 (E) A POLICE OFFICER IS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A
8 SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION IF THEIR DEPENDENT CHILD HAS APPLIED.

9 (F) A SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION:

10 (1) MAY BE USED FOR THE TUITION AT ANY ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION
11 FOR UP TO 60 CREDITS; AND

15 18-3904.

16 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "SCHOLARSHIP" MEANS THE POLICE OFFICERS
17 EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP II.

18 (B) THERE IS A POLICE OFFICERS EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP
19 II.

20 (C) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO THE OFFICE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP IF
21 THE INDIVIDUAL IS:

22 (1) A CURRENT OR FORMER CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICER WHO:

23 (I) HAS BEEN EMPLOYED IN THAT CAPACITY FOR A MINIMUM
24 OF 10 YEARS;

25 (II) IS A CURRENT RESIDENT OF THE STATE;

26 (III) HAS NOT BEEN AWARDED THE CONTINUING EDUCATION
27 FOR POLICE OFFICERS SCHOLARSHIP UNDER § 18-3902 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

1 (IV) HAS NOT BEEN REPRIMANDED FOR MISCONDUCT
2 EXCLUDING TECHNICAL INFRACTIONS; OR

7 (D) ALL APPLICANTS WHO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN
8 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION SHALL RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP.

9 (E) A POLICE OFFICER IS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A
10 SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION IF THEIR DEPENDENT CHILD HAS APPLIED.

11 (F) A SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION:

12 (1) MAY BE USED FOR THE TUITION AT ANY ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION
13 FOR UP TO:

14 (I) 120 CREDITS; OR

15 (II) 60 CREDITS IF THE POLICE OFFICER OR A DEPENDENT
16 CHILD OF THE POLICE OFFICER WAS AWARDED THE POLICE OFFICERS
17 EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP I UNDER § 18-3903 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(2) MAY BE UP TO 100% OF THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL TUITION OF A
RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND,
COLLEGE PARK CAMPUS.

21 18-3905.

22 (A) THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT ANY REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO
23 IMPLEMENT THIS SUBTITLE.

24 (B) THE OFFICE SHALL ESTABLISH THE APPLICATION AND AWARD
25 PROCESSES FOR THE SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

26 (C) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR
27 SHALL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS IN THE BUDGET TO EQUAL 100% OF THE VALUE
28 OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall be
30 construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any
31 effect on or application to any police officers certified before the effective date of this Act.

1 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2022.