

SENATE BILL 886

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3lr1531
CF HB 629

By: **Senator Watson**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program –**
3 **Surviving Spouses of Service Members**

4 FOR the purpose of specifying that a certain surviving spouse of a member of the armed
5 forces is eligible to apply for a scholarship under the Edward T. Conroy Memorial
6 Scholarship Program if the service member died, suffered a service connected
7 disability, or was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action under certain
8 circumstances; and generally relating to the Edward T. Conroy Memorial
9 Scholarship Program.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 18–601(a)(1) and (6), (b), and (c)(1)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Education
17 Section 18–601(d) and (g)(3)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2022 Replacement Volume)

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

22 **Article – Education**

23 18–601.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (6) "Surviving spouse" means a person who has not remarried.

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

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

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

8 (i) 1. Is accepted for admission or enrolled in the regular
9 undergraduate, graduate or professional program at an eligible institution;

10 2. Is enrolled in a 2-year terminal certificate program in
11 which the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate
12 program in an eligible institution; or

13 3. Is enrolled in a private career school;

14 (ii) Is at least 16 years old; and

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

16 (2) To apply for a scholarship under this section, the following persons are
17 required to be a resident of Maryland at the time of application or at the time of the
18 disabling or fatal event:

19 (i) A son, daughter, stepson, [or] stepdaughter, **OR THE**
20 **SURVIVING SPOUSE** of a member of the armed forces who:

21 1. Died as a result of military service after December 7, 1941;

22 2. Suffered a service connected 100% permanent disability
23 after December 7, 1941; or

24 3. Was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action,
25 if that occurred on or after January 1, 1960, as a result of the Vietnam conflict, and if the
26 child was born prior to or while the parent was a prisoner of war or missing in action;

27 (ii) A prisoner of war or missing in action, if that occurred on or after
28 January 1, 1960, as a result of the Vietnam conflict and was a resident of this State at the
29 time the person was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action;

30 (iii) A veteran, as defined under § 9-901 of the State Government
31 Article, who:

1 1. Suffers a service connected disability of 25% or greater;
2 and

3 2. Has exhausted or is no longer eligible for federal veterans'
4 educational benefits;

5 (iv) [The surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces who
6 suffered a service connected 100% permanent disability;

7 (v)] A son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of or the surviving
8 spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

9 [(vi)] (v) A son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of a school
10 employee who, as a result of an act of violence:

11 1. Died in the line of duty; or

12 2. Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the
13 school employee 100% disabled; or

14 [(vii)] (VI) The surviving spouse of a school employee who, as a result
15 of an act of violence:

16 1. Died in the line of duty; or

17 2. Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the
18 school employee 100% disabled.

19 (3) To apply for a scholarship under this section, the following persons are
20 not required to be a resident of Maryland at the time of application or at the time of the
21 disabling or fatal event:

22 (i) 1. A son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of any State or
23 local public safety employee killed in the line of duty; or

24 2. The surviving spouse of any State or local public safety
25 employee killed in the line of duty; or

26 (ii) 1. A disabled public safety employee;

27 2. A son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of a disabled
28 public safety employee who sustains an injury in the line of duty that renders the public
29 safety employee 100% disabled; or

30 3. The surviving spouse of a disabled public safety employee
31 who sustains an injury in the line of duty that renders the public safety employee 100%
32 disabled.

1 (g) (3) An award provided under subsection [(d)(2)(v)] **(D)(2)(IV)** of this
2 section may not exceed the amount specified in subsection (e)(2) of this section when
3 combined with any other scholarship received by a student based on the student's status
4 as a child or spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, This Act may not be construed to
6 have any effect on any scholarship awarded under the Edward T. Conroy Memorial
7 Scholarship Program to the surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces who suffered
8 a service connected 100% permanent disability on or before December 7, 1941.

9 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
10 1, 2023.