

Chapter 693

(House Bill 629)

AN ACT concerning

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

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

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education

Section 18–601(a)(1) and (6), (b), and (c)(1)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 18–601(d) and (g)(3)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Education

18–601.

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

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

(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.

(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 undergraduate, graduate or professional program at an eligible institution;

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) 1. A disabled public safety employee;

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

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

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, This Act may not be construed to have any effect on any scholarship awarded under the Edward T. Conroy Memorial

Scholarship Program to the surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces who suffered a service connected 100% permanent disability on or before December 7, 1941.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2023.