

HOUSE BILL 624

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4r1477
CF SB 517

By: **Delegate Barnes**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2024

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program – Program Administrator –**
3 **Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the administrator of the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland
5 Program to be the Maryland Higher Education Commission rather than the State
6 Department of Education; and generally relating to the Next Generation Scholars of
7 Maryland Program.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 18–303.1
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 18–303.1.

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

18 (2) “Fund” means the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program
19 Fund.

20 (3) “Program” means the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) The [Department] **COMMISSION**, in collaboration with the [Commission]
2 **DEPARTMENT**, county boards of education, county superintendents, and institutions of
3 higher education, shall administer the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program.

4 (c) The Program shall provide guidance and services to students who qualify for
5 a Guaranteed Access Grant in accordance with § 18–303(e) of this subtitle and students
6 who qualify to receive free or reduced–price lunch under the National School Lunch
7 Program to assist the students in successfully:

8 (1) Completing a college preparatory curriculum;

9 (2) Graduating from high school;

10 (3) Matriculating at an institution of higher education as defined in §
11 18–303 of this subtitle; and

12 (4) Making timely progress to complete a degree program.

13 (d) (1) The [Department] **COMMISSION** shall:

14 (i) Publicize the Program through community outreach and
15 marketing materials;

16 (ii) Award grants to nonprofit organizations to administer the
17 Program;

18 (iii) Solicit applications from nonprofit organizations to administer
19 the Program in local school systems; and

20 (iv) Give priority to applications:

21 1. From Maryland–based nonprofit organizations; and

22 2. That include business and institution of higher education
23 partners.

24 (2) The Program may continue to provide services to students:

25 (i) When they attend an institution of higher education; or

26 (ii) Who have participated in the Program for at least 1 full year and
27 relocate to another county in the State that does not participate in the Program.

28 (e) In accordance with subsection (c) of this section, the services to be provided to
29 students participating in the Program shall include:

30 (1) A high school graduation plan;

1 (2) Summer work or internship opportunities;

2 (3) Financial aid literacy assistance;

3 (4) Career interest assessments;

4 (5) Mentorship and one-on-one counseling;

5 (6) Visits to college campuses and workplaces;

6 (7) An intensive summer bridge or matriculation assistance program for
7 students entering an institution of higher education directly from high school; and

8 (8) A plan to matriculate and graduate from an institution of higher
9 education.

10 (f) A nonprofit organization that receives a grant to provide the guidance and
11 services required under subsection (e) of this section may utilize:

12 (1) Postsecondary students receiving work-study assistance at Maryland
13 institutions of higher education; and

14 (2) Secondary students in 11th and 12th grades who are successfully
15 completing high school graduation requirements.

16 (g) (1) For fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall
17 include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Program.

18 (2) The [Department] COMMISSION shall distribute grants to nonprofit
19 organizations that:

20 (i) Are selected in accordance with subsection (d) of this section; and

21 (ii) Will administer the Program in local school systems in which at
22 least 50% of the students as a percentage of full-time equivalent students as defined in §
23 5-201 of this article are eligible to receive a free lunch under the National School Lunch
24 Program in the 2015-2016 school year.

25 (h) (1) There is a Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program Fund.

26 (2) The purpose of the Fund is to provide funds for the administration of
27 the Program.

28 (3) The [Department] COMMISSION shall administer the Fund.

1 (4) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of
2 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

3 (5) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the
4 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

5 (6) The Fund consists of:

6 (i) Money appropriated in the State budget for the Program;

7 (ii) Interest earnings of the Fund; and

8 (iii) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit
9 of the Fund.

10 (7) The Fund may be used only for administering the Program.

11 (8) (i) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the
12 same manner as other State money may be invested.

13 (ii) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

14 (9) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the
15 State budget.

16 (i) The [Department] **COMMISSION** may adopt regulations necessary to
17 implement this section.

18 (j) On or before December 1, 2020, and each December 1 thereafter, the
19 Commission and the Department shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with §
20 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on the implementation of
21 the Program, including:

22 (1) The number of students from each local school system who were
23 prequalified for the Guaranteed Access Grant during each year of the Program;

24 (2) The race, disability status, and English language learner status of each
25 participating student who prequalified for the Guaranteed Access Grant each year of the
26 Program;

27 (3) The progress of each participating student through the Program,
28 including high school graduation, institution of higher education matriculation and
29 retention rates, and, if applicable, institution of higher education graduation rates;

30 (4) The potential for allocating additional funds for longitudinal data
31 collection of the number of students matriculating to institutions of higher education each

1 year, the number of students receiving retention services each year, and postsecondary
2 outcomes for those two categories of students;

3 (5) The amount and quality of services provided by nonprofit organizations
4 to participating students, including the use of college work–study students and high school
5 students as mentors and counselors;

6 (6) The nonprofit organizations that received grants under the Program,
7 including any other entities that provided services such as institutions of higher education,
8 the business community, and local schools or local school systems;

9 (7) The amount of financial aid, in addition to the Guaranteed Access
10 Grant, that participating students received each year that the students were enrolled in an
11 institution of higher education; and

12 (8) Findings and recommendations on the success of the Program and
13 whether funding for the Program should be continued or expanded.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to
15 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or
16 application to the program administrator of the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland
17 Program for the fiscal year 2025 grant cycle.

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2024.