

HOUSE BILL 980

F2

5lr1991
CF SB 772

By: **Delegate Crosby**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2025

Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship**
3 **Program – Eligibility**

4 FOR the purpose of expanding the eligibility for the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy
5 Memorial Scholarship Program to include certain individuals; authorizing certain
6 methods for verifying eligibility for the Program; and generally relating to the
7 Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 18–601(c)(1)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Education
15 Section 18–601(d)(2) and (f)(1)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 18-601.

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

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

7 (i) A son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, or the surviving spouse
8 of a member of the armed forces who:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (v) A son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of a school employee
27 who, as a result of an act of violence:

28 1. Died in the line of duty; or

29 2. Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the
30 school employee 100% disabled; [or]

31 (vi) The surviving spouse of a school employee who, as a result of an
32 act of violence:

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

4 ~~(VII) A SON, DAUGHTER, OR STEPCHILD OR THE SURVIVING~~
5 ~~SPOUSE OF A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO, AS A~~
6 ~~RESULT OF THE VETERAN'S DISABILITY RATING, AN APPLICANT WHO IS OR WAS~~
7 ~~ELIGIBLE, AT THE TIME OF THE APPLICATION, FOR THE CHAPTER 35 SURVIVORS'~~
8 ~~DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFIT, AS DETERMINED BY THE U.S.~~
9 ~~DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.~~

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

13 (II) TO DETERMINE THE ELIGIBILITY OF PERSONS WHO APPLY
14 TO A POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION FOR THE EDWARD T. AND MARY A. CONROY
15 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, AN APPLICANT MAY SUBMIT A COPY OF THE
16 APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CHAPTER 35 SURVIVORS' AND
17 DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFIT.

18 (III) IF AN APPLICANT IS UNABLE TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF
19 ELIGIBILITY UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A SCHOOL
20 CERTIFYING OFFICIAL OR AN INSTITUTIONAL LIAISON MAY VERIFY THAT THE
21 APPLICANT IS OR WAS ELIGIBLE FOR THE CHAPTER 35 SURVIVORS' AND
22 DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFIT.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
24 1, ~~2025~~ 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.