

HOUSE BILL 231

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr0178
CF SB 207

By: **Chair, Appropriations Committee (By Request – Departmental – Higher Education Commission)**

Requested: September 17, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations and Government, Labor, and Elections

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Guaranteed Access Grant Program – Applicability**

3 FOR the purpose of delaying the decentralization of the Guaranteed Access Grant Program
4 until the 2029–2030 financial aid award year; and generally relating to the
5 Guaranteed Access Grant Program.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Education
8 Section 18–303.4
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Education**

14 18–303.4.

15 (a) **THIS SECTION APPLIES BEGINNING WITH THE 2029–2030 FINANCIAL**
16 **AID AWARD YEAR.**

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 **(B)** (1) Beginning when financial aid information is available each year, but
2 not later than October 1 each year, the Office shall compile and certify lists for the entire
3 State that rank applicants for the Guaranteed Access Grant award by financial need.

4 (2) Regularly, the Office shall provide to each institution of higher
5 education in the State the lists compiled and certified in accordance with paragraph (1) of
6 this subsection.

7 **[(b)] (C)** (1) Each institution of higher education shall use the lists provided
8 by the Office in accordance with subsection **[(a)] (B)** of this section, and the requirements
9 under §§ 18–303 and 18–304 of this subtitle, to determine the applicants who shall be
10 offered a Guaranteed Access Grant award by the institution and the amount of the award.

11 (2) The institution shall send the financial aid award notification to an
12 applicant to offer the applicant a Guaranteed Access Grant award.

13 **[(c)] (D)** An applicant may accept the offer of a Guaranteed Access Grant award
14 from an institution of higher education.

15 **[(d)] (E)** (1) Each semester, each institution **OF HIGHER EDUCATION** shall
16 submit to the Office a list of the students who were awarded a Guaranteed Access Grant
17 for the semester and the amounts awarded.

18 (2) The Office shall reimburse each institution for the Guaranteed Access
19 Grant awards on the list submitted in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection.

20 **[(e)] (F)** (1) (i) The Office shall compile and certify lists of students who
21 previously received a Guaranteed Access Grant award and are eligible for a renewal award.

22 (ii) The Office shall provide to each institution of higher education
23 in the State the lists compiled and certified in accordance with subparagraph (i) of this
24 paragraph.

25 (2) (i) Each institution of higher education shall use the lists provided
26 by the Office in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection, and the requirements
27 under §§ 18–303 and 18–304 of this subtitle, to determine the students who shall be offered
28 a Guaranteed Access Grant renewal award by the institution.

29 (ii) The institution shall send the financial aid award notification to
30 a student to offer the student a Guaranteed Access Grant renewal award.

31 (3) The Office shall reimburse each institution **OF HIGHER EDUCATION**
32 for the Guaranteed Access Grant renewal awards made in accordance with paragraph (1)
33 of this subsection.

34 **[(f)] (G)** The Office shall adopt regulations to implement this section.

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.