

HOUSE BILL 845

F2

6lr1898
CF SB 728

By: **Wicomico County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – ~~Community College Promise Scholarship Eligibility Student~~**
3 **Financial Assistance – Delmar High School Graduates Alterations to**
4 **Scholarship Programs**

5 FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility for the Community College Promise Scholarship
6 to include residents of Delmar, Maryland who graduated from Delmar High School
7 in Delmar, Delaware; authorizing an institution of postsecondary education to award
8 a scholarship under the Fallen Transportation Workers Scholarship Program to
9 certain individuals including a surviving transportation worker and certain
10 individuals related to a surviving transportation worker or a fallen transportation
11 worker; renaming the Fallen Transportation Workers Scholarship Program to be the
12 Fallen and Surviving Transportation Workers Scholarship Program; authorizing a
13 scholarship awarded under the Fallen and Surviving Transportation Workers
14 Scholarship Program to be used for the total cost of attendance at any institution of
15 postsecondary education; and generally relating to ~~the Community College Promise~~
16 Scholarship student financial assistance in higher education.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

18 Article – Education

19 Section 18–3603(b)(2); and 18–4001 through 18–4004 to be under the amended
20 subtitle “Subtitle 40. Fallen and Surviving Transportation Workers
21 Scholarship Program”

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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.



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

Article – Education

18–3603.

(b) An applicant is eligible for a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship award if the applicant:

(2) (I) **ENROLLS AT:**

1. THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE LOCATED IN THE COUNTY WHERE THE APPLICANT LIVES;

2. THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE LOCATED IN THE REGION WHERE THE APPLICANT LIVES; OR

3. A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE THAT HAS AN ON–CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL FACILITY FOR STUDENTS; AND

(II) **1.** Enrolls as a candidate for a vocational certificate, a certificate, or an associate’s degree or participates in a registered apprenticeship after graduating from a high school or successfully completing a GED in the State[:

(i) Except as provided in item (ii) of this item, at the community college located in the county or, in the case of a regional community college, in the region, where the applicant lives; or

(ii) At a community college in the State that has an on–campus residential facility for students]; **OR**

2. A. ENROLLS AS A CANDIDATE FOR A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE, A CERTIFICATE, OR AN ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE OR PARTICIPATES IN A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP AFTER GRADUATING FROM DELMAR HIGH SCHOOL IN DELMAR, DELAWARE; AND

B. IS A RESIDENT OF DELMAR, MARYLAND;

Subtitle 40. Fallen AND SURVIVING Transportation Workers Scholarship Program.

18–4001.

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

1 **(B) “ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS:**

2 **(1) ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION OR ENROLLED IN A REGULAR**
3 **UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE, OR PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM AT AN INSTITUTION OF**
4 **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION;**

5 **(2) AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD; AND**

6 **(3) (I) A SURVIVING TRANSPORTATION WORKER;**

7 **(II) 1. A CHILD, STEPCHILD, SPOUSE, OR UNMARRIED**
8 **PARTNER OF A SURVIVING TRANSPORTATION WORKER; OR**

9 **2. IF A SURVIVING TRANSPORTATION WORKER DOES**
10 **NOT HAVE A CHILD, STEPCHILD, SPOUSE, OR UNMARRIED PARTNER, A SIBLING OF**
11 **THE SURVIVING TRANSPORTATION WORKER;**

12 **(III) 1. A SURVIVING CHILD, STEPCHILD, SPOUSE, OR**
13 **UNMARRIED PARTNER OF A FALLEN TRANSPORTATION WORKER; OR**

14 **2. IF A FALLEN TRANSPORTATION WORKER DOES NOT**
15 **HAVE A SURVIVING CHILD, STEPCHILD, SPOUSE, OR UNMARRIED PARTNER, A**
16 **SIBLING OF THE FALLEN TRANSPORTATION WORKER; OR**

17 **(IV) A CHILD OR STEPCHILD OF AN UNMARRIED PARTNER.**

18 **[(b)] (C) “Fallen transportation worker” means an individual:**

19 **(1) Whose occupation is in the construction, rehabilitation, or operation of**
20 **a transportation facility or transportation facilities project in the State; and**

21 **(2) Who died, on or after January 1, 2022, as a result of an accident**
22 **occurring while the individual was performing any job duty necessary for the construction,**
23 **maintenance, rehabilitation, or operation of a transportation facility or transportation**
24 **facilities project in the State.**

25 **[(c)] (D) “Fund” means the Fallen AND SURVIVING Transportation Workers**
26 **Scholarship Fund.**

27 **[(d)] (E) “Program” means the Fallen AND SURVIVING Transportation Workers**
28 **Scholarship Program.**

29 **(F) “SURVIVING TRANSPORTATION WORKER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL:**

1 (1) WHOSE OCCUPATION IS IN THE CONSTRUCTION,
2 REHABILITATION, OR OPERATION OF A TRANSPORTATION FACILITY OR
3 TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PROJECT IN THE STATE; AND

4 (2) WHO SURVIVED, ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2022, AN ACCIDENT:

5 (I) RESULTING IN AT LEAST \$100,000,000 IN TOTAL DAMAGES
6 TO A TRANSPORTATION FACILITY OR TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PROJECT IN THE
7 STATE; AND

8 (II) OCCURRING WHILE THE INDIVIDUAL WAS PERFORMING
9 ANY JOB DUTY NECESSARY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE,
10 REHABILITATION, OR OPERATION OF A TRANSPORTATION FACILITY OR
11 TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PROJECT IN THE STATE.

12 (G) “TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PROJECT” HAS THE MEANING STATED
13 IN § 4–101 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.

14 [(e)] (H) “Transportation facility” has the meaning stated in § 3–101 of the
15 Transportation Article.

16 [(f) “Transportation facilities project” has the meaning stated in § 4–101 of the
17 Transportation Article.]

18 (I) “UNMARRIED PARTNER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

19 (1) AT THE TIME OF A FALLEN TRANSPORTATION WORKER’S DEATH:

20 (I) WAS IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FALLEN
21 TRANSPORTATION WORKER; AND

22 (II) SHARED A PRIMARY RESIDENCE WITH THE FALLEN
23 TRANSPORTATION WORKER; OR

24 (2) AT THE TIME OF A SURVIVING TRANSPORTATION WORKER’S
25 ACCIDENT:

26 (I) WAS IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SURVIVING
27 TRANSPORTATION WORKER; AND

28 (II) SHARED A PRIMARY RESIDENCE WITH THE SURVIVING
29 TRANSPORTATION WORKER.

30 18–4002.

1 (a) There is a Fallen AND SURVIVING Transportation Workers Scholarship
2 Program.

3 (b) The purpose of the Program is to provide tuition assistance to a student who
4 was [a dependent or is the surviving spouse of a fallen transportation worker] IMPACTED
5 BY AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING A FALLEN TRANSPORTATION WORKER OR A SURVIVING
6 TRANSPORTATION WORKER.

7 18-4003.

8 (a) An individual may apply to an eligible institution of postsecondary education
9 for a scholarship under this subtitle if the individual is[:

10 (1) Accepted for admission or enrolled in a regular undergraduate,
11 graduate, or professional program at an institution of postsecondary education;

12 (2) At least 16 years old; and

13 (3) The child, stepchild, or surviving spouse of a fallen transportation
14 worker] AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

15 (b) A scholarship awarded under this subtitle:

16 (1) May be used for the [tuition and mandatory fees] TOTAL COST OF
17 ATTENDANCE at any institution of postsecondary education; and

18 (2) May not:

19 (i) Exceed the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees of an
20 undergraduate student at the 4-year institution of higher education within the University
21 System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland Global Campus and the
22 University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus, with the highest annual expenses for a
23 full-time undergraduate; and

24 (ii) Be less than the lesser of:

25 1. \$3,000; or

26 2. The equivalent tuition and mandatory fees of the
27 institution attended by the recipient of the scholarship.

28 (c) (1) Each institution of postsecondary education shall determine eligibility
29 of individuals who apply to the institution for the Program.

1 (2) Subject to the availability of funds, funds for the Program shall be
2 allocated by the Commission to each institution of postsecondary education based on the
3 number of eligible recipients attending each institution.

4 (3) In February and October each year, beginning in 2024, each institution
5 of postsecondary education shall report to the Commission the number of eligible recipients
6 attending the institution.

7 (4) The Commission shall allocate funds for awards to institutions of
8 postsecondary education on verification of eligible recipients attending the institutions.

9 (5) If funds cannot be allocated in the fiscal year in which awards are made,
10 priority shall be given to allocating funds for those awards in the immediately following
11 fiscal year.

12 (d) Each recipient of a scholarship under this subtitle may hold the award for 5
13 years of full-time study or 8 years of part-time study.

14 (e) To the extent practicable, the Department of Transportation, a local
15 department of transportation, or a contractor that employed fallen transportation workers
16 **OR SURVIVING TRANSPORTATION WORKERS** shall provide to the Commission the names
17 and contact information for the families of the fallen transportation workers **OR**
18 **SURVIVING TRANSPORTATION WORKERS AFTER ANY ACCIDENT RESULTING IN**
19 **ELIGIBILITY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

20 18-4004.

21 (a) There is a Fallen AND SURVIVING Transportation Workers Scholarship
22 Fund.

23 (b) The Commission shall administer the Fund.

24 (c) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of
25 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

26 (2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the
27 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

28 (d) The Fund consists of:

29 (1) Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund;

30 (2) Interest earnings; and

31 (3) Any other money from any other source accepted by the Commission for
32 the benefit of the Fund.

1 (e) The Fund may be used only to award scholarships under the Program.

2 (f) (1) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same
3 manner as other State money may be invested.

4 (2) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

5 (g) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the State
6 budget.

7 (h) The Commission:

8 (1) May accept any gift or grant from any person for the Fund; and

9 (2) Shall deposit any gift or grant that it receives for the Program with the
10 State Treasurer.

11 (i) Funding for the Program shall be as provided in the State budget.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
13 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.