

SENATE BILL 7

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr0611
CF 6lr2447

By: **Senator Simonaire**

Requested: June 30, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq**
3 **Conflicts Scholarship – Repeal of Termination Date**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing the prohibition on awarding the Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans
5 of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship after a certain date; repealing the
6 limitation on renewing the Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq
7 Conflicts Scholarship if the scholarship recipient received an initial scholarship
8 before a certain date; and generally relating to the Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of
9 the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 18–604
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 18–604.

19 (a) For purposes of this section, an individual served in the Afghanistan or Iraq
20 conflict if the individual was an active service member who served in:

21 (1) Afghanistan or contiguous air space, as defined in federal regulations,
22 on or after October 24, 2001; or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 undergraduate student at the 4-year public institution of higher education within the
2 University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland Global Campus and
3 University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus, with the highest annual expenses for a
4 full-time resident undergraduate.

5 (f) A scholarship recipient shall maintain a grade point average of at least 2.5 on
6 a 4.0 scale.

7 (g) Each recipient of a scholarship under this section may hold the award for 5
8 years of full-time study or 8 years of part-time study.

9 (h) (1) A scholarship recipient is not required to submit an application for
10 federal or State financial aid.

11 (2) Scholarship recipients who file for financial aid must file by March 1 of
12 each year.

13 [(i) (1) The Office may not award an initial scholarship to an individual after
14 June 30, 2030.

15 (2) The Office may renew a scholarship after June 30, 2030, if the
16 individual received an initial scholarship before that date.]

17 [(j) (I) A Senator or Delegate may authorize the Office to award all or a portion
18 of the funds authorized under Subtitles 4 and 5 of this title to eligible recipients of
19 scholarships awarded under this section.

20 [(k) (J) (1) Funds for the Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan
21 and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship shall be as provided in the annual budget of the Commission
22 by the Governor.

23 (2) (i) In this subsection, "Fund" means the Douglas J. J. Peters
24 Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Fund.

25 (ii) There is a Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and
26 Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Fund in the Commission.

27 (iii) The Commission shall administer the Fund.

28 (iv) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to §
29 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

30 (v) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately and the
31 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

32 (vi) The Commission:

