

SENATE BILL 273

F2
SB 772/25 – EEE

6lr1743
CF HB 100

By: **Senator Gile**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

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 2025 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 2025 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**

21 18–601.

22 (c) (1) The program for uniformed services and public safety personnel and
23 their eligible dependents is the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship
24 Program.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

(i) A son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, or the surviving spouse of a member of the uniformed services who:

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

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

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

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

(iii) A veteran who:

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

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

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

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

1. Died in the line of duty; or

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

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

1. Died in the line of duty; or

2. Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the school employee 100% disabled; **OR**

1 **(VII) AN APPLICANT WHO IS OR WAS ELIGIBLE, AT THE TIME OF**
2 **THE APPLICATION, FOR THE CHAPTER 35 SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS'**
3 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFIT, AS DETERMINED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT**
4 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (f) (1) **(I)** Each postsecondary institution shall determine the eligibility of
6 persons who apply to the institution for the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial
7 Scholarship Program and the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program.

8 **(II) TO DETERMINE THE ELIGIBILITY OF PERSONS WHO APPLY**
9 **TO A POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION FOR THE EDWARD T. AND MARY A. CONROY**
10 **MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, AN APPLICANT MAY SUBMIT A COPY OF THE**
11 **APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CHAPTER 35 SURVIVORS' AND**
12 **DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFIT.**

13 **(III) IF AN APPLICANT IS UNABLE TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF**
14 **ELIGIBILITY UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A SCHOOL**
15 **CERTIFYING OFFICIAL OR AN INSTITUTIONAL LIAISON MAY VERIFY THAT THE**
16 **APPLICANT IS OR WAS ELIGIBLE FOR THE CHAPTER 35 SURVIVORS' AND**
17 **DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFIT.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
19 1, 2026.