

SENATE BILL 285

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6lr2345

By: **Senators Carozza and Bailey**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings and Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Scholarships for Correctional Officers**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility criteria for the Maryland Police Officers and
4 Probation Agents Scholarship Program to include correctional officers; and generally
5 relating to scholarships for correctional officers.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

7 Article – Education

8 Section 18–3801 through 18–3804 and 18–3807 to be under the amended subtitle

9 “Subtitle 38. Maryland Police Officers, Probation Agents, and Correctional
10 Officers Scholarship Program”

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 Subtitle 38. Maryland Police Officers [and], Probation Agents, **AND CORRECTIONAL**
17 **OFFICERS** Scholarship Program.

18 18–3801.

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

20 (B) **“CORRECTIONAL OFFICER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 8–201 OF**
21 **THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.**

22 [(b)] (C) “Eligible institution” means:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(1) A public senior higher education institution in the State; or

(2) A community college in the State.

[(c)] (D) “Police officer” has the meaning stated in § 3–201 of the Public Safety Article.

[(d)] (E) “Probation agent” means an individual serving as a parole and probation agent, supervisor, or regional administrator for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

[(e)] (F) “Service obligation” means to work as a police officer or probation agent in the State not less than 5 years during the 8-year period after graduation.

18–3802.

(a) There is a Maryland Police Officers [and], Probation Agents, **AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS** Scholarship Program.

(b) The purpose of the program is to provide tuition assistance for students who are:

(1) Attending an eligible institution and enrolled in a degree program that would further the student’s intent to become a police officer [or], probation agent, **OR CORRECTIONAL OFFICER** after graduation; or

(2) Employed as a police officer [or], probation agent, **OR CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**, attending an eligible institution, and enrolled in a degree program that would further the police officer’s [or], probation officer’s, **OR CORRECTIONAL OFFICER’S** career.

(c) The Office shall publicize the availability of the Maryland Police Officers [and], Probation Agents, **AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS** Scholarship.

18–3803.

(a) Each year, the Office shall select eligible students and offer a scholarship to each student selected to be used at an eligible institution of the student’s choice.

(b) A recipient of the Maryland Police Officers [and], Probation Agents, **AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS** Scholarship shall:

(1) Be a Maryland resident or have graduated from a Maryland high school;

(2) Be accepted for admission or currently enrolled at an eligible institution as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a course of study or program that would further the recipient's career;

(3) Sign a letter of intent to perform the service obligation on completion of the recipient's required studies; and

(4) Satisfy any additional criteria the Commission may establish.

(c) A current police officer [or], probation agent, **OR CORRECTIONAL OFFICER** shall be eligible for a Maryland Police Officers [and], Probation Agents, **AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS** Scholarship if they meet the eligibility criteria under subsection (b) of this section.

18-3804.

The recipient of a Maryland Police Officers [and], Probation Agents, **AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS** Scholarship shall repay the Commission the funds received as set forth in § 18-112 of this title if the recipient does not:

(1) Satisfy the degree requirements of the eligible course of study or program or fulfill other requirements as provided in this subtitle; or

(2) Perform the service obligation to work as a police officer [or], probation agent, **OR CORRECTIONAL OFFICER** for at least 5 years during the 8-year period after graduation.

18-3807.

The Office shall:

(1) Publicize the availability of Maryland Police Officers [and], Probation Agents, **AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS** Scholarships; and

(2) To the extent practicable, award scholarships under this subtitle in a manner that reflects ethnic, gender, racial, and geographic diversity.

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