

SENATE BILL 486

F2

6lr2488
CF 6lr2701

By: **Senators Carozza, Harris, and Watson**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Maryland Graduate and Professional Scholarship**
3 **Program – Eligible Institutions**

4 FOR the purpose of expanding eligibility under the Maryland Graduate and Professional
5 Scholarship Program to include certain students attending the University of
6 Maryland Eastern Shore; and generally relating to the Maryland Graduate and
7 Professional Scholarship Program.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 18–2601
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 18–2601.

17 (a) In cooperation with the institutions of higher education in the State, the
18 Commission shall establish and administer a Graduate and Professional Scholarship
19 Program to provide financial assistance to full-time and part-time students in the fields of
20 medicine, dentistry, law, pharmacy, nursing, social work, and veterinary medicine.

21 (b) A recipient of a graduate and professional scholarship shall:

22 (1) Be a resident of the State;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) Demonstrate financial need according to criteria established by the Commission; and

(3) Attend one of the following institutions:

(i) The University of Maryland School of:

1. Medicine;
2. Dentistry;
3. Law;
4. Pharmacy; or
5. Social Work;

(ii) The University of Baltimore School of Law;

(iii) The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine;

(iv) Virginia–Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine;

(v) The Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine;

**(VI) THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
ENROLLED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DEGREE PROGRAMS:**

**1. MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN
ASSISTANT STUDIES;**

2. DOCTOR OF PHARMACY;

3. DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY; OR

4. DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE;

[(vi)] (VII) Any institution of higher education in the State offering a master's degree in nursing;

[(vii)] (VIII) Any institution of higher education in the State offering a master's degree in social work; or

[(viii)] (IX) Any institution of higher education in the State offering a first professional degree in pharmacy.

1 (c) A graduate and professional scholarship award for a single school year may
2 not be less than \$1,000 or more than \$5,000.

3 (d) A recipient may not receive an award for longer than 8 semesters.

4 (e) (1) The Commission shall allocate grants for the Program to the
5 institutions of higher education specified in subsection (b)(3) of this section based on the
6 proportion of State residents enrolled in eligible programs at each institution.

7 (2) An institution of higher education that receives a grant under this
8 section shall provide the Commission with an annual audit describing the disposition of the
9 funds.

10 (f) The Commission shall:

11 (1) Establish guidelines for the awarding of graduate and professional
12 scholarships by the institutions of higher education to the students; and

13 (2) Adopt regulations necessary for the implementation of this section.

14 (g) Funds for the Maryland Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program shall
15 be as provided in the State budget.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
17 1, 2026.