

# SENATE BILL 509

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6lr1457

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By: Senator Rosapepe

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Workforce Pell Grant Program – Implementation**

3 FOR the purpose of implementing the federal Workforce Pell Grant Program in the State;  
4 requiring the Governor, after consultation with certain entities, to determine  
5 whether to approve certain short-term programs as eligible for Pell Grant funds  
6 subject to certain requirements; prohibiting institutions of postsecondary education  
7 from using certain funds subject to a certain exclusion; prohibiting institutions of  
8 postsecondary education from operating short-term programs in a certain manner;  
9 and generally relating to the Workforce Pell Grant Program.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

11 Article – Education

12 Section 10–101(a), (c), and (i)

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Education

17 Section 11–212

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Education**

23 10–101.

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) "Commission" means the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

2 (i) (1) "Institution of postsecondary education" means a school or other  
3 institution that offers an educational program in the State for individuals who are at least  
4 16 years old and who have graduated from or left elementary or secondary school.

5 (2) "Institution of postsecondary education" does not include:

6 (i) Any adult education, evening high school, or high school  
7 equivalence program conducted by a public school system of the State; or

8 (ii) Any apprenticeship or on-the-job training program subject to  
9 approval by the Apprenticeship and Training Council.

10 **11-212.**

11 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
12 INDICATED.

13 (2) "**PROGRAM**" MEANS THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE PELL GRANT  
14 PROGRAM BY WHICH PELL GRANTS MAY BE AWARDED TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN  
15 A SHORT-TERM PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 83002 OF THE ONE BIG  
16 BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT, AS AMENDED.

17 (3) "**SHORT-TERM PROGRAM**" MEANS A PROGRAM OF STUDY THAT IS:

18 (I) AT LEAST 150 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION;

19 (II) LESS THAN 600 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION;

20 (III) AT LEAST 8 WEEKS;

21 (IV) LESS THAN 15 WEEKS; AND

22 (V) NOT A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE AS DEFINED IN TITLE  
23 34, SUBTITLE B, CHAPTER VI, PART 600 OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS  
24 IN EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2021.

25 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IS TO IMPLEMENT THE WORKFORCE  
26 PELL GRANT PROGRAM IN THE STATE.

27 (C) (1) THE GOVERNOR, AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE GOVERNOR'S  
28 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND THE COMMISSION, SHALL DETERMINE  
29 WHETHER:

4 (II) TO APPROVE THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM AS ELIGIBLE FOR  
5 THE PROGRAM.

25 (3) FOR THE APPROVAL TO REMAIN EFFECTIVE, EVERY 2 YEARS AN  
26 INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION  
27 VERIFYING THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM REMAINS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS  
28 SECTION AND THE PROGRAM.

1 (D) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A  
2 SHORT-TERM PROGRAM SEEKING APPROVAL UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:

3 (I) PROVIDE AN EDUCATION ALIGNED WITH THE  
4 REQUIREMENTS OF:

## 2. AN IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPATION;

9 (II) MEET THE HIRING REQUIREMENTS OF EMPLOYERS IN THE  
10 SECTORS OR OCCUPATIONS IDENTIFIED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH;

18 (IV) PREPARE STUDENTS TO PURSUE ONE OR MORE  
19 CERTIFICATES OR DEGREES AT AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION  
20 BY ENSURING THAT:

17 (v) ANY INFORMATION THE COMMISSION REQUESTS TO VERIFY  
18 COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION AND THE PROGRAM.

19 (4) THE COMMISSION MAY COLLECT AN APPLICATION FEE TO  
20 COMPLETE THE EVALUATION.

21 (E) IN THE OPERATION OF A SHORT-TERM PROGRAM THAT IS AUTHORIZED  
22 UNDER THIS SECTION, AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MAY NOT:

1 ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, FOR THE PERIOD OF TIME THAT  
2 THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM IS OFFERED; OR

3 (4) OFFER THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM USING  
4 NON-CREDIT-BEARING COURSES UNLESS THOSE COURSES WILL TRANSFER TO AT  
5 LEAST ONE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION REGARDLESS OF  
6 PROGRAM COMPLETION.

7 (F) (1) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30 EACH YEAR, FOR EACH SHORT-TERM  
8 PROGRAM APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY  
9 EDUCATION SHALL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON:

10 (I) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SHORT-TERM  
11 PROGRAMS APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION;

12 (II) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED A  
13 SHORT-TERM PROGRAM APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION;

14 (III) IF THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IS  
15 NOT PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN THE STATE, THE NUMBER OF STATE RESIDENTS WHO:

16 1. ENROLLED IN THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM; AND

17 2. COMPLETED THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM;

18 (IV) THE TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE, THE TOTAL TUITION  
19 AND FEES, AND THE AVERAGE NET PRICE OF THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM; AND

20 (V) DEMOGRAPHIC AND FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION OF  
21 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM.

22 (2) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30 EACH YEAR, THE COMMISSION  
23 SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF  
24 THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, A SUMMARY OF THE REPORTS REQUIRED  
25 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC AND  
26 FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION OF STATE STUDENTS WHO ENROLLED IN  
27 SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION.

28 (G) THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY  
29 OUT THIS SECTION.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
31 1, 2026.