

# SENATE BILL 509

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By: ~~Senator Rosapepe~~ **Senators Rosapepe, Attar, and Hester**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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; requiring a certain registered apprenticeship  
7 program to include certain components in the curriculum; prohibiting institutions of  
8 postsecondary education from using certain funds subject to a certain exclusion;  
9 prohibiting institutions of postsecondary education from operating short-term  
10 programs in a certain manner; and generally relating to the Workforce Pell Grant  
11 Program.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article – Education  
14 Section 10–101(a), (c), and (i)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 BY adding to  
18 Article – Education  
19 Section 11–212  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

**Article – Education**

10–101.

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

(c) “Commission” means the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

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

(2) “Institution of postsecondary education” does not include:

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

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

**11–212.**

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

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

**(3) “REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP” MEANS AN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM THAT IS REGISTERED WITH, AND APPROVED BY, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OR THE MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COUNCIL.**

**~~(3)~~ (4) “SHORT–TERM PROGRAM” MEANS A PROGRAM OF STUDY THAT IS:**

**(I) AT LEAST 150 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION;**

**(II) LESS THAN 600 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION;**

**(III) AT LEAST 8 WEEKS;**

1 (IV) LESS THAN 15 WEEKS; AND

2 (V) NOT A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE AS DEFINED IN TITLE  
3 34, SUBTITLE B, CHAPTER VI, PART 600 OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS  
4 IN EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2021.

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

7 (C) (1) THE GOVERNOR, AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE GOVERNOR'S  
8 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD ~~AND THE COMMISSION~~, SHALL DETERMINE  
9 WHETHER:

10 ~~(I) A SHORT-TERM PROGRAM OFFERED AT AN INSTITUTION~~  
11 ~~OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION AND~~  
12 ~~FEDERAL LAW FOR WORKFORCE PELL GRANTS; AND~~

13 ~~(II) TO APPROVE THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM AS ELIGIBLE FOR~~  
14 ~~THE PROGRAM.~~

15 (2) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, AN  
16 INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, REGARDLESS OF HAVING A  
17 PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN THE STATE, MAY NOT:

18 1. DISBURSE PROGRAM FUNDS TO A STUDENT IN THE  
19 STATE; OR

20 2. ADVERTISE, MARKET, OR INFORM STUDENTS IN THE  
21 STATE ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM FUNDS FOR A SHORT-TERM  
22 PROGRAM.

23 (II) SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY  
24 IF AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, REGARDLESS OF HAVING A  
25 PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN THE STATE, OBTAINS:

26 1. THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR UNDER THIS  
27 SECTION FOR EACH SHORT-TERM PROGRAM FOR WHICH THE INSTITUTION OF  
28 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SEEKS TO DISBURSE PROGRAM FUNDS; AND

29 2. A DETERMINATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE  
30 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THAT THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY  
31 EDUCATION MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM FOR EACH SHORT-TERM

1 PROGRAM FOR WHICH THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SEEKS TO  
2 DISBURSE PROGRAM FUNDS.

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

7 (4) IF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR COURT OF APPROPRIATE  
8 JURISDICTION FINDS THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION ENGAGED  
9 IN UNFAIR, DECEPTIVE, OR ABUSIVE TRADE PRACTICE UNDER TITLE 13 OF THE  
10 COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE RELATED TO THE PROGRAM, THE GOVERNOR SHALL  
11 REVOKE AN APPROVAL.

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

14 (I) PROVIDE AN EDUCATION ALIGNED WITH THE  
15 REQUIREMENTS OF:

16 1. A ~~HIGH-SKILL~~, HIGH-SKILL OR HIGH-WAGE  
17 OCCUPATION AS IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE UNDER THE CARL D. PERKINS CAREER  
18 AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT; OR

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

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

22 (III) 1. LEAD TO A RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY  
23 CREDENTIAL THAT IS STACKABLE AND PORTABLE ACROSS MORE THAN ONE  
24 EMPLOYER; OR

25 2. PREPARE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE SHORT-TERM  
26 PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYMENT IN AN OCCUPATION FOR WHICH THERE IS ONLY ONE  
27 RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL AND THAT AWARDS STUDENTS WITH  
28 THE CREDENTIAL ON COMPLETION OF THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM; AND

29 (IV) PREPARE STUDENTS TO PURSUE ONE OR MORE  
30 CERTIFICATES OR DEGREES AT AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION  
31 BY ENSURING THAT:

1           1.    **ON COMPLETION OF THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM**  
2 **AND ENROLLMENT IN A RELATED CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE PROGRAM, A STUDENT**  
3 **WILL RECEIVE ACADEMIC CREDIT THAT AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY**  
4 **EDUCATION WILL ACCEPT TOWARD THAT CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE; AND**

5           2.    **THE ACADEMIC CREDIT DESCRIBED UNDER ITEM 1 OF**  
6 **THIS ITEM WILL BE ACCEPTED TOWARD MEETING THE CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE**  
7 **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**

8           (2)   ~~THERE IS A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION THAT THE~~ **THE RELATED**  
9 **TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION COMPONENT OF A ~~FEDERALLY REGISTERED OR~~**  
10 **~~STATE REGISTERED~~ REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM OFFERED AT AN**  
11 **INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF**  
12 **~~PARAGRAPH~~ PARAGRAPHS (1)(I), (II), AND (III) AND (3)(III) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

13           (3)   **IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPHS (1) AND (2)**  
14 **OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SEEKING**  
15 **APPROVAL UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE:**

16           (i)   **DOCUMENTATION THAT, FOR THE 12 MONTHS PRECEDING**  
17 **THE DATE ON WHICH THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION APPLIED**  
18 **FOR APPROVAL, THE INSTITUTION OFFERED THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM AND THE**  
19 **SHORT-TERM PROGRAM MET ALL REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION;**

20           (ii)   **DOCUMENTATION THAT THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM HAS A**  
21 **COMPLETION RATE OF AT LEAST 70% WITHIN 150% OF THE NORMAL TIME FOR**  
22 **COMPLETION FOR EACH FEDERAL AID AWARD YEAR;**

23           (iii)   **DOCUMENTATION THAT THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM HAS A**  
24 **JOB PLACEMENT RATE OF AT LEAST 70% AFTER 180 DAYS OF COMPLETION FOR**  
25 **EACH FEDERAL AID AWARD YEAR;**

26           (iv)   **DOCUMENTATION THAT THE TUITION AND FEES FOR THE**  
27 **SHORT-TERM PROGRAM ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE**  
28 **PROGRAM; AND**

29           (v)   **ANY INFORMATION THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE**  
30 **DEVELOPMENT BOARD OR THE COMMISSION REQUESTS TO VERIFY COMPLIANCE**  
31 **WITH THIS SECTION AND THE PROGRAM.**

32           (4)   **THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, THE**  
33 **COMMISSION, OR ANY OTHER AUTHORIZED ENTITY MAY COLLECT AN APPLICATION**  
34 **FEE TO COMPLETE THE EVALUATION.**

1 (E) A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM APPROVED FOR  
 2 WORKFORCE PELL GRANTS SHALL INCLUDE IN THE CURRICULUM BOTH  
 3 ON-THE-JOB LEARNING AND CLASSROOM LEARNING, INCLUDING ARTIFACTS AND  
 4 DEMONSTRATED PERFORMANCE OR COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT, UNDER THE  
 5 GENERAL SUPERVISION OF THE FACULTY.

6 ~~(E)~~ (F) IN THE OPERATION OF A SHORT-TERM PROGRAM THAT IS  
 7 AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SECTION, AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY  
 8 EDUCATION MAY NOT:

9 (1) PARTNER, CONTRACT, OR AFFILIATE WITH AN ENTITY,  
 10 INSTITUTION, OR ORGANIZATION OTHER THAN A ~~JOINT APPRENTICESHIP~~  
 11 ~~COMMITTEE~~ REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP, TO OFFER INSTRUCTION FOR THE  
 12 SHORT-TERM PROGRAM ~~THAT IS NOT ACCREDITED BY AN ACCREDITING AGENCY~~  
 13 ~~RECOGNIZED AND APPROVED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;~~ UNLESS  
 14 THE CONTRACTING ENTITY, INSTITUTION, OR ORGANIZATION:

15 (i) CLEARLY AND PROMINENTLY DISCLOSES THAT THE  
 16 CONTRACTING ENTITY IS A COMPANY THAT IS SEPARATE FROM THE INSTITUTION OF  
 17 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND DESCRIBES ALL OF THE SERVICES THAT THE  
 18 CONTRACTING ENTITY IS CONTRACTED TO PROVIDE FOR THE INSTITUTION IN THE  
 19 FOLLOWING PLACES:

20 1. ON THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY  
 21 EDUCATION'S WEBSITE;

22 2. IN MARKETING MATERIALS ABOUT THE SHORT-TERM  
 23 PROGRAM; AND

24 3. IN ORAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH PROSPECTIVE  
 25 STUDENTS OF THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM;

26 (ii) IS NOT PAID USING INCENTIVE COMPENSATION OR TUITION  
 27 SHARING WITH THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION; AND

28 (iii) IS NOT INVOLVED WITH THE INSTITUTION OF  
 29 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION'S GOVERNANCE, DECISION MAKING OVER THE  
 30 DESIGN OR DEVELOPMENT OF COURSE CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTION, SETTING OF  
 31 SHORT-TERM PROGRAM ADMISSION STANDARDS, DETERMINING ENROLLMENT  
 32 TARGETS, OR CREATION OF NEW SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS;

1           (2) UNLESS A LOAN IS 0% INTEREST, PARTNER OR AFFILIATE WITH  
2 AN ENTITY THAT OFFERS STUDENT LOANS, LINES OF CREDIT, OR INCOME SHARING  
3 AGREEMENTS FOR THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM;

4           (3) CHARGE TUITION AND FEES TO ANY STUDENT ENROLLED IN THE  
5 SHORT-TERM PROGRAM THAT ARE GREATER THAN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF PELL  
6 GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ANY STUDENT IN THAT SHORT-TERM PROGRAM, AS  
7 ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, FOR THE PERIOD OF TIME THAT  
8 THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM IS OFFERED; OR

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

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

16           ~~(I) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SHORT-TERM~~  
17 ~~PROGRAMS APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION;~~

18           ~~(II) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED A~~  
19 ~~SHORT-TERM PROGRAM APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION;~~

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

22                     ~~1. ENROLLED IN THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM; AND~~

23                     ~~2. COMPLETED THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM;~~

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

26           ~~(V) DEMOGRAPHIC AND FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION OF~~  
27 ~~STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM.~~

28           (G) (1) (I) THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
29 SHALL REQUEST AND COLLECT RELEVANT DATA FROM EACH INSTITUTION OF  
30 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OFFERING AN APPROVED SHORT-TERM PROGRAM.

1 (II) THE DATA COLLECTED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS  
2 PARAGRAPH MAY INCLUDE:

3 1. INFORMATION REGARDING EMPLOYER  
4 PARTNERSHIPS;

5 2. JOB PLACEMENT SECTORS; AND

6 3. THE ALIGNMENT OF SHORT-TERM PROGRAM  
7 CURRICULA WITH THE HIRING REQUIREMENTS OF IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTORS.

8 (III) EACH INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION  
9 OFFERING AN APPROVED SHORT-TERM PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE THE DATA  
10 REQUESTED BY THE GOVERNOR’S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD UNDER  
11 THIS PARAGRAPH IN THE FORM AND MANNER REQUIRED BY THE BOARD.

12 (2) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30 EACH YEAR, THE GOVERNOR’S  
13 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE  
14 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT  
15 ARTICLE, A SUMMARY OF THE ~~REPORTS REQUIRED~~ INFORMATION COLLECTED  
16 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC AND  
17 FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION OF STATE STUDENTS WHO ENROLLED IN  
18 SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION.

19 ~~(G)~~ (H) THE GOVERNOR’S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND THE  
20 COMMISSION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
22 1, 2026.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.