

SENATE BILL 864

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6lr3145
CF HB 982

By: **Senator A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Tuition Exemption for Foster Care Recipients – Eligibility**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of a “foster care recipient” to alter a certain age
4 for purposes of determining eligibility for a certain tuition exemption; and generally
5 relating to tuition exemptions for foster care recipients.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article – Education
8 Section 15–106.1(a)(1) and (b)(1)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Education
13 Section 15–106.1(a)(2)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Education**

19 15–106.1.

20 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (2) (i) “Foster care recipient” means an individual who:

22 1. Was placed in an out-of-home placement by the
23 Department of Human Services; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 2. A. Resided in an out-of-home placement on the
2 individual's 18th birthday or at the time the individual graduated from high school or
3 successfully completed a GED; or

4 B. Resided in an out-of-home placement on or after the
5 individual's [13th] **8TH** birthday for at least 1 year and was placed into guardianship,
6 adopted, or reunited with at least one of the individual's parents.

7 (ii) "Foster care recipient" includes a younger sibling of an individual
8 described in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph if the younger sibling is concurrently placed
9 into guardianship or adopted out of an out-of-home placement by the same guardianship
10 or adoptive family.

11 (b) (1) A foster care recipient or homeless youth is exempt from paying any
12 tuition at a public institution of higher education, regardless of that foster care recipient's
13 or homeless youth's receipt of any scholarship or grant if:

14 (i) The foster care recipient or homeless youth is enrolled at the
15 institution on or before the date that the foster care recipient or homeless youth reaches
16 the age of 25 years;

17 (ii) The foster care recipient or homeless youth is enrolled as a
18 candidate for a vocational certificate, an associate's degree, or a bachelor's degree; and

19 (iii) The foster care recipient or homeless youth has filed for federal
20 and State financial aid.

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