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Appropriations Committee

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Capital Budget

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Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee

Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB1075 Higher Education - Maryland Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program
- Eligible Institutions**

Hearing: March 10, 2026, 1:00pm

Chair Ben Barnes, Vice Chair Anne Kaiser

Appropriations Committee

House Bill 1075 makes a straightforward but important change to Maryland's Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program by expanding eligibility to include students attending certain graduate and professional programs at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Currently, the Maryland Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to Maryland residents pursuing advanced degrees in critical professional fields such as medicine, dentistry, law, pharmacy, nursing, social work, and veterinary medicine. These scholarships help reduce financial barriers for students who are preparing to enter professions that are essential to the health, well-being, and stability of our communities.

However, despite offering high-quality graduate-level programs in several of these fields, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore is not currently included among the eligible institutions in statute.

House Bill 1075 corrects that oversight.

Specifically, this bill adds the University of Maryland Eastern Shore as an eligible institution for students enrolled in the following programs:

- Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies
- Doctor of Pharmacy
- Doctor of Physical Therapy

- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

These programs prepare highly trained professionals who will help meet workforce needs across Maryland, particularly in health care and rural communities, where shortages of providers remain a significant challenge.

Importantly, House Bill 1075 does not change the structure of the scholarship program itself. Students would still be required to:

- Be Maryland residents
- Demonstrate financial need
- And meet the program's existing eligibility criteria

Scholarship awards would remain between \$1,000 and \$5,000 per year, as established under current law.

What this bill does is ensure that students attending a public historically Black university within the University System of Maryland have equal access to this important source of financial assistance while pursuing graduate-level professional education. By expanding eligibility to UMES, House Bill 1075 helps strengthen our health workforce pipeline, supports educational equity, and ensures that students pursuing advanced professional degrees at UMES have the same opportunities available to their peers at other institutions.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report for HB1075

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Delegate Stephanie Smith