

SENATE BILL 698

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6lr1873

By: **Senators Young, Benson, Currie, Feldman, Ferguson, Gladden, Guzzone, King, Madaleno, Manno, Mathias, McFadden, Nathan–Pulliam, Peters, Ramirez, Raskin, Rosapepe, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Colleges – Vocational Certificates and Associate’s Degrees – Tuition**
3 **Waiver**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Community College Vocational Certificate and
5 Associate’s Degree Tuition Waiver Program; specifying that participation in the
6 Program is voluntary and shall be determined by certain counties, in consultation
7 with certain community colleges; exempting certain individuals from payment of
8 tuition to attend certain community colleges under certain circumstances; requiring
9 certain individuals to be counted in certain computations under certain
10 circumstances; requiring certain individuals to apply for certain financial aid;
11 providing for the duration of the tuition waiver; requiring certain individuals to pay
12 tuition under certain circumstances, notwithstanding certain provisions of law;
13 specifying how financial aid shall be applied for individuals who receive a tuition
14 waiver; requiring certain community colleges to assist with certain applications for
15 financial aid under certain circumstances; requiring the Maryland Higher Education
16 Commission to make certain determinations and create a certain baseline
17 appropriation amount; requiring the Governor annually to include a certain
18 appropriation in the State budget for the Program beginning in a certain fiscal year;
19 requiring a certain county and the State to reimburse community colleges for certain
20 forgone tuition revenue; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the
21 Community College Vocational Certificate and Associate’s Degree Tuition Waiver
22 Program.

23 BY adding to

24 Article – Education

25 Section 16–106.1

26 Annotated Code of Maryland

27 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Education**

4 **16–106.1.**

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

7 (2) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE VOCATIONAL
8 CERTIFICATE AND ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM.

9 (3) (I) “TUITION” MEANS THE BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL CHARGE FOR
10 COURSES OFFERED AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

11 (II) “TUITION” INCLUDES ANY FEES FOR:

- 12 1. REGISTRATION;
- 13 2. APPLICATION;
- 14 3. ADMINISTRATION; AND
- 15 4. LABORATORY WORK.

16 (B) THERE IS A COMMUNITY COLLEGE VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE AND
17 ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM IN THE STATE.

18 (C) PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM IS VOLUNTARY AND SHALL BE
19 DETERMINED BY THE COUNTY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
20 THAT SERVES THE COUNTY.

21 (D) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

22 (I) IS A RESIDENT OF A COUNTY THAT ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE
23 IN THE PROGRAM; AND

24 (II) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, ENROLLS
25 AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS A CANDIDATE FOR A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE TO
26 BE COMPLETED WITHIN 3 YEARS OR AN ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE TO BE COMPLETED
27 WITHIN 5 YEARS.

1 **(2) AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
2 **SUBSECTION SHALL:**

3 **(I) BE EXEMPT FROM PAYMENT OF TUITION; AND**

4 **(II) BE COUNTED IN COMPUTING FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT**
5 **ENROLLMENT UNDER § 16-305 OF THIS TITLE IF THE INDIVIDUAL ENROLLS IN A**
6 **CLASS THAT IS ELIGIBLE UNDER § 16-305 OF THIS TITLE FOR STATE SUPPORT AT**
7 **THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**

8 **(3) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS**
9 **SUBSECTION SHALL SUBMIT A TIMELY APPLICATION FOR ANY STATE OR FEDERAL**
10 **STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, OTHER THAN A STUDENT LOAN, FOR WHICH THE STUDENT**
11 **MAY QUALIFY.**

12 **(E) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN**
13 **INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES A TUITION WAIVER UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(2) OF THIS**
14 **SECTION SHALL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE TUITION WAIVER UNTIL THE**
15 **INDIVIDUAL IS AWARDED A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE.**

16 **(2) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (D)(2) OF THIS SECTION, AN**
17 **INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PAY TUITION IF THE INDIVIDUAL:**

18 **(I) DOES NOT EARN A MINIMUM GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 2.0**
19 **ON A SCALE OF 4.0; OR**

20 **(II) EARNS BELOW A "C" GRADE OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN A**
21 **COURSE AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**

22 **(F) (1) ANY STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, OTHER THAN A STUDENT LOAN,**
23 **RECEIVED BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES A TUITION WAIVER UNDER**
24 **SUBSECTION (D)(2) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE APPLIED FIRST TO PAY THE**
25 **INDIVIDUAL'S TUITION.**

26 **(2) THE TUITION WAIVER SHALL APPLY TO THE DIFFERENCE, IF ANY,**
27 **BETWEEN THE CHARGE FOR TUITION AND THE FINANCIAL AID AWARD, NOT**
28 **INCLUDING A STUDENT LOAN, THAT THE INDIVIDUAL RECEIVES.**

29 **(3) ON REQUEST, THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL ASSIST ANY**
30 **INDIVIDUAL REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR STATE OR FEDERAL**
31 **STUDENT FINANCIAL AID UNDER THIS SECTION.**

1 **(G) (1) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2016, THE COMMISSION SHALL**
2 **DETERMINE THE AMOUNT PER STUDENT OF FINANCIAL AID THAT WAS AWARDED IN**
3 **FISCAL YEARS 2014, 2015, AND 2016 TO STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED COMMUNITY**
4 **COLLEGES IN THE STATE.**

5 **(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL AVERAGE THE AMOUNTS DETERMINED**
6 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO CREATE A BASELINE PER STUDENT**
7 **STATE APPROPRIATION UNDER THE PROGRAM.**

8 **(3) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2018 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR**
9 **THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET**
10 **FOR THE PROGRAM AN APPROPRIATION IN AN AMOUNT AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE**
11 **AMOUNT CALCULATED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION MULTIPLIED**
12 **BY THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.**

13 **(H) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A COMMUNITY**
14 **COLLEGE IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FROM A PARTICIPATING COUNTY AND**
15 **THE STATE FOR THE FORGONE TUITION REVENUE RESULTING FROM TUITION**
16 **WAIVERS AWARDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.**

17 **(2) THE FORGONE TUITION DESCRIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF**
18 **THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE PAID BY THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED UNDER**
19 **SUBSECTION (G)(3) OF THIS SECTION, WITH THE REMAINDER BORNE 50% BY THE**
20 **PARTICIPATING COUNTY AND 50% BY THE STATE.**

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
22 1, 2016.