

HOUSE BILL 1830

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8lr3921

By: **Delegates B. Barnes and Pena–Melnik**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 19, 2018

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Maryland Community College Universal Scholarships –**
3 **Established**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Community College Universal Scholarship
5 program; requiring the Office of Student Financial Assistance in the Maryland
6 Higher Education Commission to publicize the availability of the scholarships;
7 requiring the Office to annually select and offer a scholarship award to certain
8 applicants; establishing the eligibility requirements for receiving a scholarship;
9 requiring a certain community college to assist certain applicants with a certain
10 application on request; requiring a certain scholarship award to begin in a certain
11 academic year; specifying how certain financial aid shall be credited to the tuition of
12 a scholarship recipient; specifying that awards shall be provided to recipients on a
13 first–come, first–served basis; providing for the duration of the scholarship award;
14 authorizing the Office to extend the duration of the award under certain
15 circumstances; establishing the requirements for a recipient to hold a scholarship
16 award; requiring the State to reimburse the Commission for certain scholarship
17 awards; requiring that the funds used to reimburse the Commission shall be paid
18 from the Education Trust Fund; requiring the Commission to adopt certain
19 regulations; requiring the Commission to report certain information to the General
20 Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring funds from the Education Trust Fund
21 to be used to provide a certain reimbursement; defining certain terms; and generally
22 relating to community college scholarships.

23 BY adding to

24 Article – Education

25 Section 18–1001 through 18–1007 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 10.
26 Maryland Community College Universal Scholarships”

27 Annotated Code of Maryland

28 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
2 Article – State Government
3 Section 9–1A–30
4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

8 **Article – Education**

9 **SUBTITLE 10. MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIPS.**

10 **18–1001.**

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

13 (B) “ANNUAL ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME” MEANS THE TOTAL OF THE
14 COMBINED ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT’S
15 PARENTS, OR THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT’S SPOUSE IF THE APPLICANT IS
16 MARRIED, AS REPORTED ON THE MOST RECENT FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURN.

17 (C) “COMMUNITY COLLEGE” INCLUDES BALTIMORE CITY COMMUNITY
18 COLLEGE.

19 (D) (1) “TUITION” MEANS THE BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL CHARGE FOR
20 COURSES OFFERED AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

21 (2) “TUITION” INCLUDES ANY FEES FOR:

22 (I) REGISTRATION;

23 (II) APPLICATION;

24 (III) ADMINISTRATION;

25 (IV) LABORATORY WORK; AND

26 (V) OTHER MANDATORY FEES.

27 **18–1002.**

28 (A) THERE IS A PROGRAM OF MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1 UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE STATE THAT ARE AWARDED UNDER THIS
2 SUBTITLE.

3 (B) THE OFFICE SHALL PUBLICIZE THE AVAILABILITY OF MARYLAND
4 COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIPS.

5 18-1003.

6 (A) THE OFFICE ANNUALLY SHALL SELECT ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND
7 OFFER A MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD TO
8 EACH SELECTED APPLICANT TO BE USED FOR TUITION AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE
9 OF THE APPLICANT'S CHOICE.

10 (B) AN APPLICANT IS ELIGIBLE FOR A MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
11 UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIP IF THE APPLICANT:

12 (1) IS ELIGIBLE FOR IN-STATE TUITION;

13 (2) ENROLLS AS A CANDIDATE FOR A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE OR
14 AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE WITHIN 2 YEARS
15 AFTER GRADUATING FROM A HIGH SCHOOL IN THE STATE OR SUCCESSFULLY
16 COMPLETING A GED;

17 (3) HAS EARNED AN OVERALL HIGH SCHOOL GRADE POINT AVERAGE
18 OF AT LEAST 2.5 ON A 4.0 SCALE OR ITS EQUIVALENT;

19 (4) HAS AN ANNUAL ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME OF NOT MORE THAN
20 THE MOST RECENTLY PUBLISHED FEDERAL PELL GRANT MAXIMUM INCOME LEVEL
21 FOR SIMILARLY SITUATED STUDENTS PLUS \$35,000;

22 (5) HAS SOUGHT ANY AVAILABLE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID TO BE
23 APPLIED TO THE APPLICANT'S INCOME FROM:

24 (i) THE DELEGATE HOWARD P. RAWLINGS EDUCATIONAL
25 EXCELLENCE AWARDS PROGRAM UNDER SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS TITLE; AND

26 (ii) THE FEDERAL PELL GRANT PROGRAM;

27 (6) ENROLLS IN AT LEAST 12 CREDITS PER SEMESTER AT THE
28 COMMUNITY COLLEGE; AND

29 (7) TIMELY SUBMITS A FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT
30 Aid (FAFSA).

1 (C) (1) AN APPLICANT WHO RECEIVES ANY OTHER EDUCATIONAL
2 GRANTS OR SCHOLARSHIPS THAT COVER THE APPLICANT'S FULL COST OF
3 ATTENDANCE AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS INELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE AN AWARD
4 UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

5 (2) AN APPLICANT WHO HAS EARNED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR AN
6 ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IS INELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE AN AWARD UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

7 (D) ON REQUEST, THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL ASSIST AN APPLICANT
8 TO SUBMIT A FAFSA OR ANY OTHER APPLICATIONS FOR STATE OR FEDERAL
9 STUDENT FINANCIAL AID FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT MAY QUALIFY.

10 18-1004.

11 (A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, BEGINNING IN THE
12 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR, THE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD SHALL BE FOR THE
13 RECIPIENT'S ACTUAL TUITION.

14 (B) (1) ANY STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, OTHER THAN A STUDENT LOAN,
15 RECEIVED BY THE RECIPIENT SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE RECIPIENT'S TUITION
16 BEFORE THE CALCULATION OF ANY AWARD AMOUNT PROVIDED UNDER THIS
17 SUBTITLE.

18 (2) AWARDS SHALL BE PROVIDED TO RECIPIENTS ON A
19 FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

20 (C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
21 EACH RECIPIENT MAY HOLD THE AWARD UNTIL THE EARLIER OF:

22 (I) 2 YEARS AFTER FIRST ENROLLING AS A CANDIDATE FOR A
23 VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE
24 IN THE STATE; OR

25 (II) THE DATE THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS AWARDED A
26 VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE.

27 (2) THE OFFICE MAY EXTEND THE DURATION OF AN AWARD FOR AN
28 ALLOWABLE INTERRUPTION OF STUDY IF THE RECIPIENT PROVIDES TO THE OFFICE
29 SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE OF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES THAT PREVENT THE
30 RECIPIENT FROM CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT.

31 (3) EACH RECIPIENT MAY HOLD THE AWARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH

1 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ONLY IF THE RECIPIENT:

2 (I) CONTINUES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR IN-STATE TUITION;

3 (II) CONTINUES TO ENROLL IN AND COMPLETE AT LEAST 12
4 CREDITS PER SEMESTER OR ITS EQUIVALENT AS DETERMINED BY THE OFFICE;

5 (III) MAINTAINS A CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT
6 LEAST 2.5 ON A 4.0 SCALE OR ITS EQUIVALENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE AWARD
7 OR, FAILING TO DO SO, PROVIDES TO THE OFFICE SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE OF
8 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES;

9 (IV) MAKES SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD A VOCATIONAL
10 CERTIFICATE OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE;

11 (V) CONTINUES TO MEET THE INCOME LIMITATIONS UNDER §
12 18-1003(B)(4) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

13 (VI) CONTINUES TO TIMELY SUBMIT AN APPLICATION UNDER §
14 18-1003(B)(7) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

15 18-1005.

16 (A) THE COMMISSION IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE STATE
17 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

18 (B) ANY FUNDS USED TO REIMBURSE THE COMMISSION FOR
19 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE PAID
20 FROM THE EDUCATION TRUST FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9-1A-30 OF THE
21 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

22 18-1006.

23 THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT
24 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

25 18-1007.

26 ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2020, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
27 COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §
28 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE MARYLAND COMMUNITY
29 COLLEGE UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, INCLUDING:

1 **(1) THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS WHO RECEIVED A MARYLAND**
 2 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIP IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR; AND**

3 **(2) THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD MADE TO EACH RECIPIENT.**

4 **Article – State Government**

5 9–1A–30.

6 (a) There is an Education Trust Fund which is a special, nonlapsing fund that is
 7 not subject to § 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

8 (b) (1) There shall be credited to the Education Trust Fund all proceeds
 9 allocated to the Fund under § 9–1A–27 of this subtitle.

10 (2) Money in the Education Trust Fund shall be invested and reinvested
 11 by the Treasurer, and interest and earnings shall accrue to the Fund.

12 (c) Money in the Education Trust Fund shall be used to:

13 (1) provide funding for public elementary and secondary education,
 14 through continuation of the funding and formulas established under the programs
 15 commonly known as the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act, first enacted by Chapter
 16 288 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002, including the funding for regional
 17 differences in the cost of education under § 5–202(f) of the Education Article;

18 (2) provide funds to construct public school buildings and provide public
 19 school capital improvements in accordance with §§ 5–301 through 5–303 of the Education
 20 Article;

21 (3) provide funds for capital projects at community colleges and public
 22 senior higher education institutions; [and]

23 (4) provide funds to expand public early childhood education programs in
 24 the State; AND

25 **(5) PROVIDE FUNDS TO REIMBURSE THE MARYLAND HIGHER**
 26 **EDUCATION COMMISSION FOR MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNIVERSAL**
 27 **SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED UNDER TITLE 18, SUBTITLE 10 OF THE EDUCATION**
 28 **ARTICLE.**

29 (d) Expenditures from the Education Trust Fund shall be made each fiscal year
 30 in accordance with the State budget.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
 32 1, 2018.

