

# SENATE BILL 308

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CF HB 431

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By: **The President (By Request – Administration) and Senators Bates, Cassilly, Eckardt, Edwards, Hershey, Hough, Jennings, Klausmeier, Mathias, Norman, Ready, Reilly, Salling, and Serafini**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2018

Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2018

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Foster Care Recipients and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth –**  
3 **Employment Program**  
4 **(Fostering Employment Act of 2018)**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing the Fostering Employment Program to provide  
6 employment opportunities for certain foster care recipients and unaccompanied  
7 homeless youth through training leading to certain credentials; requiring the  
8 Department of Human Services and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and  
9 Regulation jointly to supervise the Program; requiring the Department of Human  
10 Services, in coordination with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation,  
11 to develop and implement the Program and coordinate with local departments of  
12 social services and local workforce development boards; requiring the Program to  
13 provide certain foster care recipients and unaccompanied homeless youth with  
14 opportunities to obtain certain credentials through certain registered apprenticeship  
15 programs or certain job readiness training; establishing that a certain foster care  
16 recipient or unaccompanied homeless youth who meets certain requirements is  
17 eligible to receive funding under the Program; authorizing the Department of  
18 Human Services and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation jointly to  
19 adopt certain regulations; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the  
20 Fostering Employment Program.

21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
22 Article – Human Services

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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.



1 Section 4–101(a) and (c)  
2 Annotated Code of Maryland  
3 (2007 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

4 BY adding to  
5 Article – Human Services  
6 Section 4–305  
7 Annotated Code of Maryland  
8 (2007 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

11 **Article – Human Services**

12 4–101.

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

14 (c) “Department” means the Department of Human Services.

15 **4–305.**

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

18 (2) “CREDENTIAL” MEANS A RECOGNIZED:

19 (I) EDUCATIONAL DIPLOMA;

20 (II) CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE;

21 (III) OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE;

22 (IV) APPRENTICESHIP CERTIFICATE;

23 (V) INDUSTRY–RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION; OR

24 (VI) AWARD FOR SKILLS ATTAINMENT AND COMPLETION,  
25 ISSUED BY AN APPROVED TRAINING PROVIDER IN THE STATE OR THIRD–PARTY  
26 CREDENTIAL PROVIDER.

27 (3) “FOSTER CARE RECIPIENT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §  
28 15–106.1 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.

1           (4) (I) “JOB READINESS TRAINING” MEANS TRAINING FOR THE  
2 PURPOSE OF ASSISTING AND SUPPORTING JOBSEEKERS IN OVERCOMING  
3 INDIVIDUAL BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT AND DEVELOPING THE SKILLS NECESSARY  
4 TO MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT AND TO QUALIFY FOR SKILLS TRAINING  
5 OPPORTUNITIES.

6           (II) “JOB READINESS TRAINING” INCLUDES:

7                   1. OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT;

8                   2. GED PREPARATION;

9                   3. LITERACY ADVANCEMENT;

10                  4. FINANCIAL STABILITY SERVICES, INCLUDING  
11 FINANCIAL COACHING;

12                  5. CREDIT COUNSELING; AND

13                  6. ASSISTANCE IN MEETING TRAINING-RELATED  
14 TRANSPORTATION AND CHILD CARE NEEDS.

15           (5) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE FOSTERING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM  
16 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

17           (6) “REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM” MEANS A FORMAL  
18 TRAINING PROGRAM APPROVED AND REGISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,  
19 LICENSING, AND REGULATION, OR BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
20 LABOR’S OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP.

21           (7) “TRAINING PROVIDER” MEANS AN ENTITY THAT:

22                   (I) PROVIDES TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO  
23 INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED IN § 11-504(B) OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
24 ARTICLE; OR

25                   (II) IS AWARDED A STRATEGIC INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP GRANT  
26 UNDER § 11-703 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.

27           (8) “UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH” ~~HAS THE MEANING~~  
28 ~~STATED IN § 15-106.1 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE~~ MEANS A CHILD OR YOUTH WHO:

29                   (I) HAS HAD A CONSISTENT PRESENCE IN THE STATE FOR AT  
30 LEAST 1 YEAR BEFORE ENROLLMENT IN A JOB READINESS TRAINING PROGRAM OR

1 REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM THAT IS DOCUMENTED BY SCHOOL,  
2 EMPLOYMENT, OR OTHER RECORDS;

3 (II) IS NOT IN THE PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF A PARENT OR  
4 GUARDIAN;

5 (III) IS A HOMELESS CHILD OR YOUTH, AS DEFINED BY THE  
6 MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT; AND

7 (IV) WAS DETERMINED TO BE A HOMELESS CHILD OR YOUTH BY:

8 1. A MARYLAND LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM HOMELESS  
9 LIAISON, AS DEFINED BY THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT;

10 2. A DIRECTOR OR A DESIGNEE OF THE DIRECTOR OF A  
11 MARYLAND-BASED PROGRAM FUNDED UNDER THE RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS  
12 YOUTH ACT; OR

13 3. A DIRECTOR OR A DESIGNEE OF THE DIRECTOR OF A  
14 MARYLAND-BASED PROGRAM FUNDED UNDER TITLE IV, SUBTITLE B OF THE  
15 MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT.

16 (9) "WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA" MEANS A GEOGRAPHIC  
17 AREA DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 106 OF THE  
18 FEDERAL WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.

19 (B) THERE IS A FOSTERING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.

20 (C) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND  
21 REGULATION SHALL JOINTLY SUPERVISE THE PROGRAM.

22 (D) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT  
23 OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOSTER CARE RECIPIENTS AND UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS  
24 YOUTH THROUGH TRAINING THAT LEADS TO INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED  
25 CREDENTIALS.

26 (E) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
27 LABOR, LICENSING, AND REGULATION, SHALL:

28 (1) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM; AND

29 (2) COORDINATE WITH:

30 (I) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES; AND

1 (II) THE LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS IN THE  
2 STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS.

3 (F) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE FOSTER CARE RECIPIENTS AND  
4 UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO OBTAIN  
5 CREDENTIALS THROUGH:

6 (1) A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM; OR

7 (2) JOB READINESS TRAINING.

8 (G) A FOSTER CARE RECIPIENT OR AN UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH  
9 WHO IS NOT ~~OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A TUITION EXEMPTION~~ EXEMPT  
10 FROM PAYING TUITION UNDER § 15-106.1 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE IS ELIGIBLE  
11 TO RECEIVE FUNDING UNDER THE PROGRAM IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS:

12 (1) AT LEAST 16 YEARS OF AGE; AND

13 (2) ENROLLED IN:

14 (I) A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM; OR

15 (II) JOB READINESS TRAINING THROUGH A TRAINING  
16 PROVIDER FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND  
17 REGULATION.

18 (H) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND  
19 REGULATION JOINTLY MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
21 1, 2018.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.