

Chapter 752

(Senate Bill 260)

AN ACT concerning

Community Colleges – Maryland Community College Promise Scholarships – Revisions

FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility requirements for a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship; providing that certain eligible recipients remain eligible for the scholarship in a certain academic year notwithstanding certain eligibility criteria under certain circumstances; altering the employment requirements relating to a service obligation associated with a scholarship; authorizing a recipient to satisfy certain requirements relating to a service obligation associated with a scholarship under certain circumstances; authorizing a recipient to hold an award if the recipient continues to enroll in a certain sequence of courses or participate in a certain apprenticeship; altering the contents of a certain report; altering a certain definition; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to Maryland Community College Promise Scholarships.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 18–3601(d), 18–3603(b), 18–3604(b) through (d), and 18–3607

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

Article – Education18–3601.

(d) (1) “Tuition” means the basic instructional charge for courses offered at a community college.

(2) “Tuition” includes any fees for:

(i) Registration;

(ii) Application;

(iii) Administration;

(iv) Laboratory work; and

(v) Other mandatory fees.

(3) “TUITION” DOES NOT INCLUDE:

(I) COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PARTS OF A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP THAT TAKE PLACE AT A LOCATION THAT IS NOT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE; OR

(II) ANY FEES FOR ROOM AND BOARD THAT ARE RELATED TO AN ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL FACILITY FOR STUDENTS.

18-3603.

(b) An applicant is eligible for a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship if the applicant:

(1) Is eligible for in-State tuition;

(2) Enrolls as a candidate for a vocational certificate, a certificate, or an associate's degree **OR PARTICIPATES IN A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP** [at a community college in the State] within 2 years after graduating from a high school or successfully completing a GED in the State:

(I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ~~ITEM (I)~~ ITEMS (II) AND (III) OF THIS ITEM, AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OR, IN THE CASE OF A REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, IN THE REGION, WHERE THE APPLICANT LIVES; OR

(II) IF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OR REGION WHERE THE APPLICANT LIVES DOES NOT OFFER THE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM IN WHICH THE APPLICANT WANTS TO ENROLL, THEN AT ANY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE THAT OFFERS THE PROGRAM; OR

(III) AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE THAT HAS AN ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL FACILITY FOR STUDENTS;

(3) Has earned ~~an overall high school~~ **A CUMULATIVE** grade point average of at least 2.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent **AT THE END OF THE FIRST SEMESTER OF THE SENIOR YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL;**

(4) Has an annual adjusted gross income of not more than:

(i) \$100,000 if the applicant is single or resides in a single-parent household; or

(ii) \$150,000 if the applicant is married or resides in a two-parent household;

(5) (I) Enrolls in [at]:

~~(H)~~ 1. AT least 12 credits per semester at the community college;
OR

~~(H)~~ 2. A SEQUENCE OF CREDIT OR NONCREDIT COURSES THAT ~~LEAD~~ LEADS TO LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION; ~~and~~ OR

(II) PARTICIPATES IN A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM; AND

(6) (i) Timely submits a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or any other applications for any State or federal student financial aid, other than a student loan, for which the applicant may qualify; or

(ii) Is ineligible to submit a FAFSA, qualifies for in-State tuition under § 15-106.8 of this article, and timely submits an application for any State student financial aid, other than a student loan, for which the applicant may qualify.

18-3604.

(b) (1) Any student financial aid, other than a student loan, received by the recipient shall be credited to the recipient's tuition before the calculation of any award amount provided under this subtitle.

(2) (i) 1. Initial awards shall be provided to recipients based on greatest demonstrated financial need.

2. Priority for awards in subsequent years shall be given to prior year recipients who remain eligible for the program.

3. NOTWITHSTANDING § 18-3603(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE, AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT WHO DOES NOT RECEIVE AN AWARD UNDER THIS SUBPARAGRAPH DUE TO INSUFFICIENT FUNDING OF THE PROGRAM REMAINS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM THE FOLLOWING ACADEMIC YEAR.

(ii) Eligible applicants who do not receive an award under this subtitle shall be notified and placed on a waiting list.

(c) An award under this subtitle may be made only if a recipient signs an agreement at the time of the initial award to:

(1) Use an address in the State on the recipient's State income tax return and commence full-time employment [in the State] within 1 year after completion of the **LATER OF:**

(I) **THE** vocational certificate, certificate, or associate's degree; **OR**

(II) **IF A RECIPIENT HAS ATTAINED AT LEAST 48 CREDITS AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND TRANSFERRED TO A 4-YEAR ~~PUBLIC~~ INSTITUTION, A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE;**

(2) Continue to use an address in the State on the recipient's State income tax return and maintain employment [in the State] for at least 1 year for each year that the scholarship was awarded; and

(3) Have the scholarship award converted into a student loan payable to the State if the recipient fails to fulfill the service obligation required in items (1) and (2) of this subsection.

(d) (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, each recipient may hold the award until the earlier of:

(i) 3 years after first enrolling as a candidate for a vocational certificate, a certificate, or an associate's degree at a community college in the State; or

(ii) The date that the individual is awarded an associate's degree.

(2) The Office may extend the duration of an award for an allowable interruption of study if the recipient provides to the Office satisfactory evidence of extenuating circumstances that prevent the recipient from continuous enrollment.

(3) Each recipient may hold the award in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection only if the recipient:

(i) Continues to be eligible for in-State tuition;

(ii) **1.** Continues to enroll in and complete at least 12 credits per semester, **OR A SEQUENCE OF CREDIT OR NONCREDIT COURSES THAT ~~LEAD~~ LEADS TO LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION**, or [its] **THEIR** equivalent, as determined by the Office; **OR**

2. CONTINUES TO PARTICIPATE IN A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM;

(iii) Maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent **FOR THE REQUISITE CREDIT-BEARING COURSEWORK** for the

remainder of the award or, failing to do so, provides to the Office satisfactory evidence of extenuating circumstances;

(iv) Makes satisfactory progress toward a vocational certificate, a certificate, or an associate's degree;

(v) Continues to meet the income limitations under § 18–3603(b)(4) of this subtitle; and

(vi) Continues to timely submit an application under § 18–3603(b)(6) of this subtitle.

18–3607.

On or before December 1, 2020, and each December 1 thereafter, the Commission shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on the implementation of the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship program, including:

(1) The number of applicants who received a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship in the academic year **DISAGGREGATED BY THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT WHICH THE SCHOLARSHIP WAS USED**;

(2) The number of scholarship recipients enrolled in an associate's degree program;

(3) The number of scholarship recipients enrolled in a vocational certificate program;

(4) The number of scholarship recipients enrolled in a certificate program;

(5) The amount of the award made to each scholarship recipient;

(6) The number of eligible applicants, if any, who were placed on a waiting list and the amount of demonstrated financial need, in the aggregate, of those applicants;

(7) The number of scholarship recipients who earned an associate's degree within 2, 3, or 4 years after receiving an award;

(8) The number of scholarship recipients who earned a vocational certificate within 1, 2, or 3 years after receiving an award;

(9) The number of scholarship recipients who transferred to a 4-year institution in the State; [and]

(10) THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS WHO RECEIVED A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE AFTER TRANSFERRING TO A 4-YEAR INSTITUTION IN THE STATE;

(11) THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR WHICH THE SERVICE OBLIGATION WAS DEFERRED, WAIVED, OR CONVERTED INTO A STUDENT LOAN; AND

[(10)] (12) The actual and potential impact of the program on enrollment rates at community colleges and 4-year public institutions in the State.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act ~~shall take effect July 1, 2019~~ is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 25, 2019.