

## Chapter 9

**(Senate Bill 845 of the 2020 Regular Session)**

AN ACT concerning

**Higher Education – Maryland Corps Program Fund – Alterations**

FOR the purpose of expanding the purpose and authorized uses of the Maryland Corps Program Fund to include covering expenses incurred to study certain matters and providing funding to match certain gifts or grants; requiring, in a certain fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, funds for the Maryland Corps Program to be as provided in the State budget for the Board of Directors of the Program to cover certain additional expenses; requiring, for a certain fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor to include in the annual budget bill a certain appropriation to the Fund; and generally relating to the Maryland Corps Program Fund.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Education  
Section 24–1108 and 24–1109  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

## Preamble

WHEREAS, America’s Service Commissions recently presented Governor Hogan with its 2019 State Service Leadership Award, stating, “Governor Hogan has been a champion of national and community service as a cost effective solution to solving state needs. His administration’s support of the Maryland Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV) and promotion of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs across the state has enabled Maryland to continue its long history of leading in service”; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, Governor Hogan signed legislation creating the Maryland Corps, a pilot program to give young adults in Maryland the chance to spend a year in community service before college; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, when announcing Maryland as a top 10 AmeriState and Baltimore as a top 10 AmeriCity, Governor Hogan said, “Our administration is proud of this outstanding achievement for Baltimore City and Maryland. AmeriCorps members devote their time, energy, and expertise to serving our communities and addressing the important issues that affect our state, and today’s announcement further illustrates the commitment of our citizens to changing Maryland for the better and making a difference in the world”; and

WHEREAS, The fiscal year 2017 operating budget included \$150,000 for the Maryland Corps Program, but Governor Hogan did not release the funds; now, therefore,

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

**Article – Education**

24–1108.

(a) There is a Maryland Corps Program Fund.

(b) The purpose of the Fund is to:

(1) Provide stipends to corps participants;

(2) Provide scholarships to corps participants who have completed the Program to be used at institutions of higher education in the State toward vocational certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees;

(3) Cover expenses incurred by the Board, including expenses incurred during the development, issuance, awarding, and funding of the RFP; [and]

(4) Cover expenses incurred by the operator selected under § 24–1105 of this subtitle, as determined by the Board to be relevant to the successful operation of the Program;

**(5) COVER EXPENSES INCURRED TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL USE OF THE PROGRAM AS A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TOOL IN THE STATE;**

**(6) COVER EXPENSES INCURRED TO STUDY HOW ALUMNI OF THE PROGRAM COULD BE BETTER POSITIONED TO MEET THE CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF EMPLOYERS IN THE STATE; AND**

**(7) PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM TO MATCH GIFTS OR GRANTS RECEIVED BY THE BOARD FOR THE FUND.**

(c) The Board shall administer the Fund.

(d) The Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(e) (1) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately and shall invest the money in the Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.

(2) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

(f) The Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

(g) The Board:

(1) May accept any gift or grant from any person for the Fund;

(2) Shall use any gift or grant that it receives for the reasons stated under subsection (b) of this section; and

(3) Shall deposit any gift or grant that it receives for the Fund with the State Treasurer.

(h) The Fund consists of:

(1) Money appropriated under § 24–1109 of this subtitle;

(2) Gifts or grants received by the Board for the Fund;

(3) Investment earnings of the Fund; and

(4) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund.

(i) The Fund may be used only for:

(1) Providing stipends to corps participants;

(2) Providing scholarships to corps participants who have completed the Program to be used at institutions of higher education in the State toward vocational certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees;

(3) Covering expenses incurred by the Board, including expenses incurred during the development, issuance, awarding, and funding of the RFP; [and]

(4) Covering expenses incurred by the operator selected under § 24–1105 of this subtitle, as determined by the Board to be relevant to the successful operation of the Program;

**(5) COVERING EXPENSES INCURRED TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL USE OF THE PROGRAM AS A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TOOL IN THE STATE;**

**(6) COVERING EXPENSES INCURRED TO STUDY HOW ALUMNI OF THE PROGRAM COULD BE BETTER POSITIONED TO MEET THE CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF EMPLOYERS IN THE STATE; AND**

**(7) PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM TO MATCH GIFTS OR**

**GRANTS RECEIVED BY THE BOARD FOR THE FUND.**

(j) Any unspent portion of the Fund may not be transferred or revert to the General Fund of the State but shall remain in the Fund to be used for the purposes specified in this subtitle.

(k) (1) Beginning with fiscal year 2018, at the end of the fiscal year, the Board shall prepare an annual report of the Fund that includes an accounting of all financial receipts and expenditures to and from the Fund.

(2) The Board shall submit a copy of the report to the General Assembly in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

(l) The Fund may be subject to an audit by the Legislative Auditor.

24–1109.

(a) For fiscal year 2018, funds for the Program shall be as provided in the State budget for the Board to develop, issue, and award the RFP described under § 24–1105 of this subtitle.

(b) For fiscal year 2019, funds for the Program shall be as provided in the State budget for the Board to disburse stipends to corps participants and to cover any administrative or other costs incurred by the Board or operator selected under § 24–1105 of this subtitle to operationalize the Program.

(c) For fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter, funds for the Program shall be as provided in the State budget for the Board to:

(1) Provide stipends to corps participants;

(2) Provide scholarships to corps participants who have completed the Program to be used at institutions of higher education in the State toward vocational certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees;

(3) Cover expenses incurred by the Board, including expenses incurred during the development, issuance, awarding, and funding of the RFP; and

(4) Cover expenses incurred by the operator selected under § 24–1105 of this subtitle, as determined by the Board to be relevant to the successful operation of the Program.

**(D) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE ACTIVITIES SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION AND FOR THE BOARD TO:**

**(1) COVER EXPENSES INCURRED TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL USE OF THE PROGRAM AS A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TOOL IN THE STATE;**

**(2) COVER EXPENSES INCURRED TO STUDY HOW ALUMNI OF THE PROGRAM COULD BE BETTER POSITIONED TO MEET THE CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF EMPLOYERS IN THE STATE; AND**

**(3) PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM TO MATCH GIFTS OR GRANTS RECEIVED BY THE BOARD FOR THE FUND.**

**(E) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 TO THE FUND.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

**Gubernatorial Veto Override, February 11, 2021.**