

HOUSE BILL 596

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By: **Delegates P. Young, Bagnall, Crutchfield, Griffith, Hettleman, C. Jackson, Kerr, Rogers, and Williams**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2020

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship – Graduate Students**
3 **and Other Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility criteria for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and
5 Iraq Conflicts Scholarship; authorizing the scholarship to be awarded to certain
6 graduate students; establishing a certain time period for a graduate scholarship;
7 altering the requirement of filing for federal and State financial aid; prohibiting
8 certain scholarships from being awarded after a certain date; authorizing certain
9 scholarships to be renewed after a certain date; and generally relating to graduate
10 students and the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Education
13 Section 18–604
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Education**

19 18–604.

20 (a) For purposes of this section, an individual served in the Afghanistan or Iraq
21 conflict if the individual was a member of the uniformed services of the United States who
22 served in:

23 (1) Afghanistan or contiguous air space, as defined in federal regulations,
24 on or after October 24, 2001, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the United

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 States Secretary of Defense; or

2 (2) Iraq or contiguous waters or air space, as defined in federal regulations,
3 on or after March 19, 2003, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the United States
4 Secretary of Defense.

5 (b) There is a Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship.

6 (c) An individual may apply to the Office for a scholarship under this section if
7 the individual:

8 (1) [Is a resident of] **LIVES IN** Maryland;

9 (2) (i) Is accepted for admission or enrolled in the regular
10 undergraduate **OR GRADUATE** program at an eligible institution; or

11 (ii) Is accepted for admission or enrolled in a 2-year terminal
12 certificate program in which the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an
13 accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible institution; and

14 (3) (i) 1. Is a veteran, as defined under § 9-901 of the State
15 Government Article, who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict;

16 2. Is an active duty member of the armed forces who served
17 in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

18 3. Is a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of
19 the United States or the Maryland National Guard who was activated as a result of the
20 Afghanistan or Iraq conflict described in subsection (a) of this section; or

21 (ii) Is a son, daughter, or spouse of:

22 1. A veteran or active duty member of the armed forces who
23 is serving or has served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

24 2. A member of the reserve or Maryland National Guard who
25 was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict described in subsection (a) of
26 this section.

27 (d) A scholarship awarded under this section [shall] **MAY** supplement, **BUT IS**
28 **NOT CONTINGENT ON**, any federal education benefits for which a recipient qualifies as a
29 result of an individual's military service or status as a dependent of a member of the armed
30 forces or of a veteran of the armed forces.

31 (e) (1) Each scholarship may be used, at any eligible institution, to pay for
32 educational expenses as defined by the Office, including:

1 (i) Tuition and mandatory fees; and

2 (ii) Room and board.

3 (2) The annual amount of a scholarship may not exceed 50% of the
4 equivalent annual tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board of a resident
5 undergraduate student **OR A GRADUATE STUDENT** at the 4-year public institution of
6 higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of
7 Maryland Global Campus and University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus, with the
8 highest annual expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate.

9 (f) A scholarship recipient shall maintain a grade point average of at least 2.5 on
10 a 4.0 scale.

11 (g) Each recipient of a scholarship under this section may hold the award for:

12 **(1) 5 years of full-time study or 8 years of part-time study FOR**
13 **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS; OR**

14 **(2) 3 YEARS OF FULL-TIME STUDY OR 6 YEARS OF PART-TIME STUDY**
15 **FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS.**

16 (h) **(1) A scholarship recipient [shall file] IS NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN**
17 **APPLICATION for federal [and] OR State financial aid.**

18 **(2) SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS WHO FILE FOR FINANCIAL AID MUST**
19 **FILE by March 1 of each year.**

20 (i) (1) The Office may not award an initial scholarship to an individual after
21 June 30, [2020] **2030**.

22 (2) The Office may renew a scholarship after June 30, [2020] **2030**, if the
23 individual received an initial scholarship before that date.

24 (j) A Senator or Delegate may authorize the Office to award all or a portion of the
25 funds authorized under Subtitles 4 and 5 of this title to eligible recipients of scholarships
26 awarded under this section.

27 (k) (1) Funds for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts
28 Scholarship shall be as provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the Governor.

29 (2) (i) In this subsection, "Fund" means the Veterans of the
30 Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Fund.

31 (ii) There is a Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts
32 Scholarship Fund in the Commission.

1 (iii) The Commission shall administer the Fund.

2 (iv) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to §
3 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

4 (v) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately and the
5 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

6 (vi) The Commission:

7 1. May accept any gift or grant from any person or
8 corporation for the Fund;

9 2. Shall use any gift or grant that it receives for a scholarship
10 from the Fund; and

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

13 (3) (i) At the end of the fiscal year, the Commission shall prepare an
14 annual report on the Fund that includes an accounting of all financial receipts and
15 expenditures to and from the Fund.

16 (ii) The Commission shall submit a copy of the report to the General
17 Assembly as provided under § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
19 1, 2020.