

Chapter 435

(House Bill 1238)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland 529 Program – Board Authority and State Contribution – Alterations

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Maryland 529 Board to distribute certain fees in a certain manner; requiring an account holder of the Maryland Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer College Investment Plan to be a State resident and file taxes before a certain date to qualify for a State contribution; requiring a qualified beneficiary to be under a certain age to receive a State contribution under certain circumstances; altering the income calculation used to determine eligibility for and the amount of a State contribution; requiring the Maryland 529 Board to give priority to certain account holders for a State contribution; prohibiting an account holder from qualifying for more than a certain amount of State contributions through a certain time period; altering certain definitions; and generally relating to the Maryland 529 Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education

Section 18–1901(a), (d), (e), (i), (j), (l), and (p), 18–19A–01(a) through (c) and (e),
18–19A–02(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 18–1901(n), 18–1905(f)(8), 18–19A–01(g) and (h), and 18–19A–04.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

18–1901.

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

(d) “Board” means the Maryland 529 Board.

(e) “Broker–Dealer Plan” means the Maryland Broker–Dealer College Investment Plan established under Subtitle 19B of this title.

(i) “Maryland ABLE Program” means the Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience Program established under Subtitle 19C of this title.

(j) “Plan” means the Maryland Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer College Investment Plan established under Subtitle 19A of this title.

(l) “Program” means Maryland 529.

(n) “Qualified higher education expenses” has the meaning stated in § [529(e)] **529** of the Internal Revenue Code.

(p) “Trust” means the Maryland Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer Prepaid College Trust established under this subtitle.

18–1905.

(f) In addition, the Board may:

(8) Subject to the review of the General Assembly, impose [and], collect, **AND DISTRIBUTE ACROSS MARYLAND 529 PROGRAMS** reasonable administrative fees for any transactions under the Trust, the Plan, the Broker–Dealer Plan, or the Maryland ABLE Program or involving prepaid contracts or transactions affecting the Program, the Trust, the Plan, the Broker–Dealer Plan, or the Maryland ABLE Program;

18–19A–01.

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

(b) “Account holder” means the person who established an investment account on behalf of a qualified designated beneficiary.

(c) “Board” means the Maryland 529 Board established under § 18–1904 of this title.

(e) “Investment account” means an account established by an account holder under this subtitle on behalf of a qualified designated beneficiary for the purpose of applying distributions toward qualified higher education expenses at eligible educational institutions.

(g) “Qualified designated beneficiary” has the meaning stated in § [529(e)] **529** of the Internal Revenue Code.

(h) “Qualified higher education expenses” has the meaning stated in § [529(e)] **529** of the Internal Revenue Code.

18-19A-02.

- (a) There is a Maryland Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer College Investment Plan.

18-19A-04.1.

(a) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, for investment accounts established after December 31, 2016, a State contribution may be made to not more than two investment accounts for each qualified beneficiary as provided in this section if:

(i) The qualified beneficiary of the investment account [is a] **AND THE ACCOUNT HOLDER ARE** Maryland [resident] **RESIDENTS**;

(ii) The account holder submits an application to the Board or its designee between January 1 and June 1 of each year; [and]

(iii) The account holder has Maryland [taxable] **ADJUSTED GROSS** income in the previous taxable year no greater than \$112,500 for an individual or \$175,000 for a married couple filing a joint return;

(IV) THE ACCOUNT HOLDER FILES INCOME TAXES ON OR BEFORE JULY 15 OF EACH YEAR; AND

(V) THE QUALIFIED BENEFICIARY IS UNDER THE AGE OF 26 YEARS IN THE CALENDAR YEAR BEFORE THE ACCOUNT HOLDER SUBMITS AN APPLICATION.

(2) For State contribution application periods after December 31, 2020, a qualified beneficiary may not receive more than two State contributions for each year the qualified beneficiary is eligible for the State contribution under this section.

- (b) (1) An application may be made in person, online, or by mail.

(2) The Board shall develop:

(i) An application form that:

1. Includes permission for confirming Maryland taxable income with the Comptroller; and

2. Allows for certification of Maryland residency;

(ii) A procedure to certify the date and time of receipt of an application; and

(iii) Any other necessary procedures for the submittal of applications.

(c) (1) For an account holder with Maryland [taxable] **ADJUSTED GROSS** income of less than \$50,000 for an individual or \$75,000 for a married couple filing a joint return who contributes at least \$25 per beneficiary during the contribution period in subsection (e) of this section, the State shall provide an additional \$500 per beneficiary.

(2) For an account holder with Maryland [taxable] **ADJUSTED GROSS** income of at least \$50,000 but less than \$87,500 for an individual or at least \$75,000 but less than \$125,000 for a married couple filing a joint return who contributes at least \$100 per beneficiary during the contribution period in subsection (e) of this section, the State shall provide an additional \$500 per beneficiary.

(3) For an account holder with Maryland [taxable] **ADJUSTED GROSS** income of at least \$87,500 but no greater than \$112,500 for an individual or at least \$125,000 but no greater than \$175,000 for a married couple filing a joint return who contributes at least \$250 per beneficiary during the contribution period in subsection (e) of this section, the State shall provide an additional \$250 per beneficiary.

(d) (1) The Governor shall appropriate in the budget bill at least the following amounts for State contributions:

(i) \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2018; and

(ii) \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(2) If the funding provided in a fiscal year is not sufficient to fully fund all State contributions authorized under this section, the Board shall:

(i) Provide contributions in the order in which applications are received; and

(ii) Give priority to applications of account holders who [did] **HAVE** not [receive] **RECEIVED** a contribution [in any prior year].

(e) (1) An account holder shall contribute at least the amount specified under subsection (c) of this section on or before November 1 of each year in order to qualify for the State contribution.

(2) A State contribution shall be made by December 31 of the calendar year in which the account holder made the contribution.

(f) **(1)** An account holder is not eligible for the subtraction modification under § 10–208 of the Tax – General Article for any taxable year in which the account holder receives a State contribution.

(2) AN ACCOUNT HOLDER MAY QUALIFY FOR NOT MORE THAN \$9,000 IN STATE CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH THE LIFETIME OF THE ACCOUNT HOLDER.

(g) (1) The Board shall develop and implement by September 1, 2018, an outreach and marketing plan to provide notification to individuals about the availability of a State contribution.

(2) The outreach and marketing plan shall:

(i) Make use of a variety of marketing media, including billboards, brochures, and electronic resources; and

(ii) Provide a centralized contact point for individuals to obtain information about opening an account and the availability of a State contribution.

(3) By December 1, 2018, the Board shall submit a report in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article to the General Assembly on the details of the outreach and marketing plan.

(h) The Board may adopt any regulations that the Board considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 30, 2021.