

# SENATE BILL 904

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By: **Senator Benson**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Higher Education Commission – Formerly Incarcerated Youth Grant**  
3 **Program – Established**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Formerly Incarcerated Youth Grant Program to be  
5 administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance within the Maryland  
6 Higher Education Commission; requiring the Division of Parole and Probation  
7 within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the  
8 Department of Juvenile Services to provide certain information to certain  
9 individuals; and generally relating to the Formerly Incarcerated Youth Grant  
10 Program.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Education

13 Section 18–3901 through 18–3904 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 39.  
14 Formerly Incarcerated Youth Grant Program”

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Education**

20 **SUBTITLE 39. FORMERLY INCARCERATED YOUTH GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 **18–3901.**

22 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
23 **INDICATED.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (B) "ELIGIBLE STUDENT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

2 (1) IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;

3 (2) IS UNDER THE AGE OF 26 YEARS;

4 (3) (I) HAS BEEN INCARCERATED; OR

5 (II) IS INCARCERATED AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION BUT WILL  
6 BE RELEASED FROM INCARCERATION WITHIN 6 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE  
7 APPLICATION;

8 (4) WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A FEDERAL PELL GRANT IN THAT YEAR;

9 AND

10 (5) WILL APPLY FOR A FEDERAL PELL GRANT IN THAT YEAR.

11 (C) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED YOUTH GRANT  
12 PROGRAM.

13 18-3902.

14 (A) (1) THERE IS A FORMERLY INCARCERATED YOUTH GRANT  
15 PROGRAM.

16 (2) THE OFFICE SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

17 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE TO ELIGIBLE  
18 STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE FEDERAL PELL GRANTS MATCHING STATE FUNDS TO  
19 SUPPORT THE INDIVIDUAL IN ATTENDING AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY  
20 EDUCATION IN THE STATE.

21 (C) AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT MAY APPLY TO THE OFFICE FOR A GRANT UNDER  
22 THE PROGRAM IF THE STUDENT CERTIFIES THAT THE STUDENT WILL BE ELIGIBLE  
23 AND WILL APPLY FOR A FEDERAL PELL GRANT IN THAT YEAR.

24 (D) THE OFFICE SHALL AWARD A GRANT UNDER THE PROGRAM:

25 (1) TO EACH ELIGIBLE STUDENT WHO APPLIES TO THE OFFICE FOR  
26 THE GRANT AND RECEIVES A FEDERAL PELL GRANT IN THAT YEAR; AND

27 (2) IN AN AMOUNT:

1                   **(I) EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT OF THE FEDERAL PELL GRANT**  
2 **THAT THE ELIGIBLE STUDENT RECEIVED IN THAT YEAR; BUT**

3                   **(II) NOT MORE THAN \$3,000.**

4           **(E) AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT WHO RECEIVES A GRANT UNDER THE PROGRAM**  
5 **SHALL USE THE GRANT FOR THE TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES AND ROOM AND**  
6 **BOARD FOR ON-CAMPUS HOUSING AT AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY**  
7 **EDUCATION IN THE STATE.**

8           **(F) THE OFFICE SHALL DISTRIBUTE A GRANT AWARDED UNDER THE**  
9 **PROGRAM TO THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN WHICH THE**  
10 **ELIGIBLE STUDENT WHO RECEIVES THE GRANT IS ENROLLED AT THE SAME TIME AS**  
11 **FUNDS FOR FEDERAL PELL GRANTS ARE DISTRIBUTED.**

12 **18-3903.**

13           **THE DIVISION OF PAROLE AND PROBATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
14 **PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
15 **JUVENILE SERVICES PERIODICALLY SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE**  
16 **PROGRAM AND THE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY BE**  
17 **ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT THROUGH THE PROGRAM.**

18 **18-3904.**

19           **THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**  
20 **SUBTITLE.**

21           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**  
22 **1, 2022.**