

Chapter 252

(Senate Bill 1101)

AN ACT concerning

~~Scholarships and Police Officer Recruitment~~
Higher Education – Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program – Alterations

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring law enforcement agencies to develop and implement certain recruitment policies; clarifying that the Edward T. Conroy and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program include certain postsecondary institutions in the State as eligible institutions that may award scholarships under the programs; establishing the Police Officers Educational Benefit Scholarship I and the Police Officers Educational Benefit Scholarship II~~ altering the definition of an eligible institution for the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program to include a community college in the State; and generally relating to ~~police officer recruitment and scholarships~~ the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Public Safety
 Section 3–201(a) and (b) and 3–209(a)(4) and (5) and (b)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Public Safety
 Section 3–207(a)(20)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)~~

~~BY adding to
 Article – Public Safety
 Section 3–200.3
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Education
 Section ~~18–101(a), (b), and (c)~~ 18–3801(a) and 18–3802(a) and (b)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education
 Section ~~18-103~~ 18-3801(b)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Education
 Section 18-601
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
 (As enacted by Chapters 693 and 694 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023)~~

~~BY adding to
 Article – Education
 Section 18-4001 through 18-4004 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 40:
 Scholarships for Police Officers and Their Dependents”
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)~~

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

~~Article – Public Safety~~

~~§ 201.~~

- ~~(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.~~
- ~~(b) “Commission” means the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.~~

~~§ 207.~~

- ~~(a) The Commission has the following powers and duties:~~

~~(20) (H) to evaluate and modernize recruitment standards and practices of law enforcement agencies to increase diversity within those law enforcement agencies and develop strategies for recruiting women and African American, Hispanic or Latino, and other minority candidates; AND~~

~~(H) TO REQUIRE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES FOR RECRUITMENT AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE STATE;~~

~~§ 209.~~

~~(a) The Commission shall certify as a police officer each individual who:~~

~~(4) submits to a criminal history records check in accordance with § 2-200.1 of this subtitle; and~~

~~(5) (i) is a United States citizen; or~~

~~(ii) subject to subsection (b) of this section, is a permanent legal resident of the United States and an honorably discharged veteran of the United States armed forces, provided that the individual has applied to obtain United States citizenship and the application is still pending approval.~~

~~(b) The certification of a police officer who fails to obtain United States citizenship as required by subsection (a)(4)(ii) of this section shall be terminated by the Commission.~~

~~§ 200.3.~~

~~(A) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2024, AND EACH APRIL 1 THEREAFTER, EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES ON THE EDUCATION LEVEL OF ALL POLICE OFFICERS EMPLOYED BY THE AGENCY.~~

~~(B) THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES SHALL COMPILE THE INFORMATION REPORTED BY THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION AND SUBMIT AN ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

Article – Education

~~18-101.~~

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

~~(b) “Commission” means the Maryland Higher Education Commission.~~

~~(c) “Office” means the Office of Student Financial Assistance.~~

~~18-103.~~

~~Except as otherwise provided in Subtitles 3, 4, 5, 6, and 12 of this title, a scholarship, grant, loan, or other student financial assistance awarded by the Office may be used only~~

~~at a public or private nonprofit institution of higher education in this State that possesses a certificate of approval from the Commission.~~

~~18-601.~~

~~(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

~~(2) "Disabled public safety employee" means a State or local public safety employee who sustains an injury in the line of duty that:~~

~~(i) Precludes the individual from continuing to serve or be employed as a State or local public safety employee; and~~

~~(ii) In the case of a volunteer member of a fire department or ambulance or rescue company or squad, precludes the member from continuing to be employed in the nonpublic safety occupation in which the member is engaged at the time of the injury.~~

~~(3) "Fund" means the Edward T. Conroy and Jean B. Cryor Scholarship Fund.~~

~~(4) "School employee" includes an employee of a public or nonpublic school in the State.~~

~~(5) "State or local public safety employee" means a person who is employed in the State as:~~

~~(i) A career or volunteer member of a:~~

~~1. Fire department;~~

~~2. Ambulance company or squad; or~~

~~3. Rescue company or squad;~~

~~(ii) A law enforcement officer;~~

~~(iii) A correctional officer; or~~

~~(iv) A member of the Maryland National Guard who was a resident of this State at the time of death.~~

~~(6) "Surviving spouse" means a person who has not remarried.~~

~~(7) "Victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks" means a Maryland resident who was killed as a result of the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York~~

~~City, the attack on the Pentagon in Virginia, or the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania.~~

~~(b) There is a program of scholarships that are awarded by eligible postsecondary institutions under this section.~~

~~(c) (1) The program for military and public safety personnel and their eligible dependents is the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program.~~

~~(2) The program for eligible dependents of public and nonpublic school employees is the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program.~~

~~(d) (1) A person may apply to an eligible postsecondary institution for a scholarship under this section if the person:~~

~~(i) 1. Is accepted for admission or enrolled in the regular undergraduate, graduate or professional program at an eligible institution IN THE STATE;~~

~~2. Is enrolled in a 2-year terminal certificate program in which the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible institution IN THE STATE; or~~

~~3. Is enrolled in a private career school;~~

~~(ii) Is at least 16 years old; and~~

~~(iii) Meets the other eligibility criteria specified in this section.~~

~~(2) To apply for a scholarship under this section, the following persons are required to be a resident of Maryland at the time of application or at the time of the disabling or fatal event:~~

~~(i) A son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, or the surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces who:~~

~~1. Died as a result of military service after December 7, 1941;~~

~~2. Suffered a service connected 100% permanent disability after December 7, 1941; or~~

~~3. Was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action, if that occurred on or after January 1, 1960, as a result of the Vietnam conflict, and if the child was born prior to or while the parent was a prisoner of war or missing in action;~~

~~(ii) A prisoner of war or missing in action, if that occurred on or after January 1, 1960, as a result of the Vietnam conflict and was a resident of this State at the time the person was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action;~~

~~(iii) A veteran, as defined under § 9-901 of the State Government Article, who:~~

~~1. Suffers a service connected disability of 25% or greater;~~
and

~~2. Has exhausted or is no longer eligible for federal veterans' educational benefits;~~

~~(iv) A son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of or the surviving spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;~~

~~(v) A son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of a school employee who, as a result of an act of violence:~~

~~1. Died in the line of duty; or~~

~~2. Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the school employee 100% disabled; or~~

~~(vi) The surviving spouse of a school employee who, as a result of an act of violence:~~

~~1. Died in the line of duty; or~~

~~2. Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the school employee 100% disabled.~~

~~(3) To apply for a scholarship under this section, the following persons are not required to be a resident of Maryland at the time of application or at the time of the disabling or fatal event:~~

~~(i) 1. A son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of any State or local public safety employee killed in the line of duty; or~~

~~2. The surviving spouse of any State or local public safety employee killed in the line of duty; or~~

~~(ii) 1. A disabled public safety employee;~~

~~2. A son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of a disabled public safety employee who sustains an injury in the line of duty that renders the public safety employee 100% disabled; or~~

~~3. The surviving spouse of a disabled public safety employee who sustains an injury in the line of duty that renders the public safety employee 100% disabled.~~

~~(c) A scholarship awarded under this section:~~

~~(1) May be used for the tuition and mandatory fees at any eligible institution; and~~

~~(2) May not:~~

~~(i) Exceed the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate student at the 4-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland Global Campus and University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus, with the highest annual expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate; and~~

~~(ii) Be less than the lesser of:~~

~~1. \$3,000; or~~

~~2. The equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident of the institution attended by the recipient of the scholarship.~~

~~(f) (1) Each postsecondary institution shall determine the eligibility of persons who apply to the institution for the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program.~~

~~(2) Funds for the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program shall be allocated by the Commission to each postsecondary institution based on the number of eligible recipients attending each institution.~~

~~(3) In October and February of each year, each postsecondary institution shall report to the Commission the number of eligible recipients attending the institution.~~

~~(4) The Commission shall allocate funds for awards to postsecondary institutions upon verification of eligible recipients attending the institutions.~~

~~(5) If funds cannot be allocated in the fiscal year in which awards are made, priority shall be given to allocating funds for those awards in the following fiscal year.~~

~~(g) (1) Each recipient of a scholarship under this section may hold the award for 5 years of full-time study or 8 years of part-time study.~~

~~(2) The number of eligible recipients under subsection (d)(2)(iii) of this section shall be limited to 15 each year.~~

~~(3) An award provided under subsection (d)(2)(iv) of this section may not exceed the amount specified in subsection (e)(2) of this section when combined with any other scholarship received by a student based on the student's status as a child or spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.~~

~~(h) (1) There is an Edward T. Conroy and Jean B. Cryor Scholarship Fund.~~

~~(2) The Commission shall administer the Fund.~~

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

~~(4) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund and the Comptroller shall account for the Fund.~~

~~(5) The Commission:~~

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

~~(ii) Shall use any gift or grant that it receives for a scholarship from the programs; and~~

~~(iii) Shall deposit any gift or grant that it receives for the programs with the State Treasurer.~~

~~(i) For fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of at least \$4,000,000 to the Fund.~~

~~SUBTITLE 40. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POLICE OFFICERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.~~

~~18-4001.~~

~~(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:~~

~~(B) "ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION" MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NONPROFIT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE THAT POSSESSES A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FROM THE COMMISSION.~~

~~(C) "POLICE OFFICER" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3-201 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.~~

~~(D) "TECHNICAL INFRACTION" MEANS A MINOR RULE VIOLATION BY A POLICE OFFICER RELATED TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES THAT:~~

~~(1) DOES NOT INVOLVE AN INTERACTION BETWEEN A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC AND THE POLICE OFFICER;~~

~~(2) DOES NOT RELATE TO THE POLICE OFFICER'S INVESTIGATIVE, ENFORCEMENT, TRAINING, SUPERVISION, OR REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES; AND~~

~~(3) IS NOT OTHERWISE A MATTER OF PUBLIC CONCERN.~~

~~18-4002.~~

~~(A) IN THIS SECTION, "SCHOLARSHIP" MEANS THE POLICE OFFICERS EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP I.~~

~~(B) THERE IS A POLICE OFFICERS EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP I.~~

~~(C) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO THE OFFICE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS:~~

~~(1) A CURRENT OR FORMER CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICER WHO:~~

~~(I) HAS BEEN OR WAS EMPLOYED IN THAT CAPACITY FOR A MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS; AND~~

~~(II) IS A CURRENT RESIDENT OF THE STATE; OR~~

~~(2) A DEPENDENT CHILD OF A POLICE OFFICER UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF A SCHOLARSHIP HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION TO THE POLICE OFFICER OR ANOTHER DEPENDENT CHILD OF THE POLICE OFFICER.~~

~~(D) SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, AN APPLICANT WHO FULFILLS THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION SHALL RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP.~~

~~(E) A POLICE OFFICER IS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE POLICE OFFICER'S DEPENDENT CHILD HAS APPLIED.~~

~~(F) A SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION:~~

~~(1) MAY BE USED FOR THE TUITION AT ANY ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION FOR UP TO 60 CREDITS; AND~~

~~(2) MAY BE UP TO 100% OF THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL TUITION OF A RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK CAMPUS.~~

~~18-4003.~~

~~(A) IN THIS SECTION, "SCHOLARSHIP" MEANS THE POLICE OFFICERS EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP II.~~

~~(B) THERE IS A POLICE OFFICERS EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP II.~~

~~(C) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO THE OFFICE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS:~~

~~(1) A CURRENT OR FORMER CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICER WHO:~~

~~(i) HAS BEEN OR WAS EMPLOYED IN THAT CAPACITY FOR A MINIMUM OF 10 YEARS; AND~~

~~(ii) IS A CURRENT RESIDENT OF THE STATE; OR~~

~~(2) A DEPENDENT CHILD OF A POLICE OFFICER UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF A SCHOLARSHIP HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION TO THE POLICE OFFICER OR ANOTHER DEPENDENT CHILD OF THE POLICE OFFICER.~~

~~(D) SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, AN APPLICANT WHO FULFILLS THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION SHALL RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP.~~

~~(E) A POLICE OFFICER IS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE POLICE OFFICER'S DEPENDENT CHILD HAS APPLIED.~~

~~(F) A SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION:~~

~~(1) MAY BE USED FOR THE TUITION AT ANY ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION FOR UP TO:~~

~~(i) 120 CREDITS; OR~~

~~(ii) 60 CREDITS IF THE POLICE OFFICER OR A DEPENDENT CHILD OF THE POLICE OFFICER WAS AWARDED THE POLICE OFFICERS EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP I UNDER § 18-4002 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND~~

~~(2) MAY BE UP TO 100% OF THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL TUITION OF A RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK CAMPUS.~~

~~18-4004.~~

~~(A) THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT ANY REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~(B) THE OFFICE SHALL ESTABLISH THE APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESSES FOR THE SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.~~

18-3801.

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

(b) “Eligible institution” means [a]:

(1) A public senior higher education institution in the State; OR

(2) A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE.

18-3802.

(a) There is a Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program.

(b) The purpose of the program is to provide tuition assistance for students who are:

(1) Attending an eligible institution and enrolled in a degree program that would further the student's intent to become a police officer or probation agent after graduation; or

(2) Employed as a police officer or probation agent, attending an eligible institution, and enrolled in a degree program that would further the police officer's or probation officer's career.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act 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.

Approved by the Governor, April 25, 2024.