

HOUSE BILL 1245

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By: **Delegate Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2021

Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2021

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Guaranteed Access Grant and Next Generation Scholars of Maryland –**
3 **Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility criteria for certain students to prequalify for a
5 Guaranteed Access Grant; requiring the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland
6 Program to provide certain assistance to certain students; altering the fiscal years
7 in which the Governor is required to include a certain appropriation in the annual
8 budget bill for the Program; requiring that a certain report be made to the Governor
9 and the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year; and generally
10 relating to the Guaranteed Access Grant and the Next Generation Scholars of
11 Maryland Program.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Education
14 Section 18–303(a) and 18–303.1(a)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Education
19 Section 18–303(e) and 18–303.1(e), (g), and (j)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Education**

4 18–303.

5 (a) Subject to subsection (e) of this section, each recipient of a Delegate Howard
6 P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Award shall:

7 (1) Be accepted for admission in the regular undergraduate program at an
8 eligible institution or be enrolled in a 2–year associate degree program in which the course
9 work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible
10 institution;

11 (2) Except as provided in § 18–303.2 of this subtitle, be a resident of this
12 State;

13 (3) Demonstrate a definite financial need to:

14 (i) For an Educational Assistance Grant, the Office; or

15 (ii) For a Guaranteed Access Grant, the Office or an institution of
16 higher education that complies with § 18–303.3 of this subtitle; and

17 (4) Accept any other conditions attached to the award.

18 (e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a student in
19 grade 7 or grade 8 who applies and qualifies for a Guaranteed Access Grant on the basis of
20 financial need as established by the Commission shall prequalify for a Guaranteed Access
21 Grant to be used at the time of enrollment in an institution of higher education by agreeing
22 in writing, as a secondary and undergraduate student, to:

23 (i) Satisfy the attendance policy of the applicable school;

24 (ii) Refrain from substance abuse;

25 (iii) Provide information required by the Commission or the State
26 Board of Education;

27 (iv) Apply for admission to an institution of higher education during
28 the student’s senior year of high school;

29 (v) Complete and file on a timely basis applications for federal
30 student aid for each year that the student plans to enroll in postsecondary education;

1 (vi) Participate in the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland
 2 Program established in § 18–303.1 of this subtitle until the student graduates from high
 3 school and matriculates at an institution of higher education;

4 (vii) Maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a
 5 4.0 scale or its equivalent; and

6 (viii) Satisfy any other program requirements set by the Office, the
 7 Commission, the State Board of Education, or the State Department of Education.

8 (2) [For academic years 2017–2018 and 2018–2019, a] **A** student in grade
 9 ~~9 who~~ [applies and qualifies for a Guaranteed Access Grant on the basis of financial need
 10 as established by the Commission] ~~IS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS~~
 11 shall prequalify for a Guaranteed Access Grant to be used at the time of enrollment in an
 12 institution of higher education if the student:

13 (I) ~~otherwise~~ **OTHERWISE** meets the conditions of paragraph (1) of
 14 this subsection; **AND**

15 (II) **1. IS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICED MEALS;**
 16 **OR**

17 **2. ATTENDS A SCHOOL THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE U.S.**
 18 **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION AND THE**
 19 **STUDENT IS IDENTIFIED BY:**

20 **A. DIRECT CERTIFICATION; OR**

21 **B. INCOME INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE FAMILY OF**
 22 **THE STUDENT TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM ON AN ALTERNATIVE FORM**
 23 **DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

24 18–303.1.

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

26 (2) “Fund” means the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program
 27 Fund.

28 (3) “Program” means the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program.

29 (e) In accordance with subsection (c) of this section, the services to be provided to
 30 students participating in the Program shall include:

31 (1) A high school graduation plan;

1 (2) Summer work or internship opportunities;

2 (3) Financial aid literacy assistance;

3 (4) Career interest assessments;

4 (5) Mentorship and one-on-one counseling;

5 (6) Visits to college campuses and workplaces;

6 (7) An intensive summer bridge **OR MATRICULATION ASSISTANCE**
7 program for students entering an institution of higher education directly from high school;
8 and

9 (8) A plan to matriculate and graduate from an institution of higher
10 education.

11 (g) (1) [For fiscal year 2018, funding for the Program shall be \$5,000,000.

12 (2) For fiscal year 2019, the Governor shall include in the annual budget
13 bill an appropriation of \$4,700,000 for the Program.

14 (3) For fiscal years 2020 through 2023] **FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND**
15 **EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER**, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill
16 an appropriation of ~~\$5,000,000~~ **\$2,500,000** to the Program.

17 [(4)] (2) The Department shall distribute grants to nonprofit
18 organizations that:

19 (i) Are selected in accordance with subsection (d) of this section; and

20 (ii) Will administer the Program in local school systems in which at
21 least 50% of the students as a percentage of full-time equivalent students as defined in §
22 5–202 of this article are eligible to receive a free lunch under the National School Lunch
23 Program in the 2015–2016 school year.

24 (j) On or before December 1, 2020, and **EACH** December 1 [, 2022] **THEREAFTER**,
25 the Commission and the Department shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with
26 § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on the implementation
27 of the Program, including:

28 (1) The number of students from each local school system who were
29 prequalified for the Guaranteed Access Grant during each year of the Program;

1 (2) The race, disability status, and English language learner status of each
2 participating student who prequalified for the Guaranteed Access Grant each year of the
3 Program;

4 (3) The progress of each participating student through the Program,
5 including high school graduation, institution of higher education matriculation and
6 retention rates, and, if applicable, institution of higher education graduation rates;

7 (4) THE POTENTIAL FOR ALLOCATING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR
8 LONGITUDINAL DATA COLLECTION OF THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS MATRICULATING
9 TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION EACH YEAR, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS
10 RECEIVING RETENTION SERVICES EACH YEAR, AND POSTSECONDARY OUTCOMES
11 FOR THOSE TWO CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS;

12 [(4)] (5) The amount and quality of services provided by nonprofit
13 organizations to participating students, including the use of college work–study students
14 and high school students as mentors and counselors;

15 [(5)] (6) The nonprofit organizations that received grants under the
16 Program, including any other entities that provided services such as institutions of higher
17 education, the business community, and local schools or local school systems;

18 [(6)] (7) The amount of financial aid, in addition to the Guaranteed
19 Access Grant, that participating students received each year that the students were
20 enrolled in an institution of higher education; and

21 [(7)] (8) Findings and recommendations on the success of the Program
22 and whether funding for the Program should be continued or expanded.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
24 1, 2021.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.