

HOUSE BILL 607

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4lr2293

By: **Delegate Harris**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2024

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Colleges – Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship –**
3 **Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing that applicants for a Maryland Community College
5 Promise Scholarship are not subject to certain requirements of the scholarship
6 application process if the applicant enrolls in or participates in certain programs or
7 courses; authorizing a community college to require certain applicants for a
8 Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship to complete an application for
9 admission to the community college; and generally relating to Maryland Community
10 College Promise Scholarships.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Education
13 Section 18–3603
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 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 18–3603.

20 (a) (1) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, a student may
21 apply annually to a Maryland community college located in the county or, in the case of a
22 regional community college, in the region where the applicant lives to receive a Maryland
23 Community College Promise Scholarship award.

24 (ii) If the community college located in the county or region where
25 the applicant lives does not offer the degree or certification program in which the applicant

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 wants to enroll, the student may apply to the community college outside the county or, in
2 the case of a regional community college, outside the region where the applicant lives to
3 receive a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship award.

4 (2) A community college annually shall select eligible applicants and offer
5 a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship award to each selected applicant to
6 be used for tuition at the community college.

7 (b) An applicant is eligible for a Maryland Community College Promise
8 Scholarship award if the applicant:

9 (1) [Is] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C)(4)(I) OF THIS**
10 **SECTION, IS** eligible for in-State tuition;

11 (2) Enrolls as a candidate for a vocational certificate, a certificate, or an
12 associate's degree or participates in a registered apprenticeship after graduating from a
13 high school or successfully completing a GED in the State:

14 (i) Except as provided in item (ii) of this item, at the community
15 college located in the county or, in the case of a regional community college, in the region,
16 where the applicant lives; or

17 (ii) At a community college in the State that has an on-campus
18 residential facility for students;

19 (3) Except as provided in subsection (c)(3) of this section, has earned a
20 cumulative grade point average of:

21 (i) For an initial award, at least 2.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent
22 at the end of the first semester or the end of the year of the senior year in high school; or

23 (ii) While enrolled at a community college in the State, at least 2.5
24 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent;

25 (4) Has an annual adjusted gross income of not more than:

26 (i) \$100,000 if the applicant is single or resides in a single-parent
27 household; or

28 (ii) \$150,000 if the applicant is married or resides in a two-parent
29 household;

30 (5) (i) Enrolls in:

31 1. At least 6 credits per semester at the community college;
32 or

1 2. A sequence of credit or noncredit courses that leads to
2 licensure or certification; or

3 (ii) Participates in a registered apprenticeship program; and

4 (6) (i) Timely submits a Free Application for Federal Student Aid
5 (FAFSA) or any other applications for any State or federal student financial aid, other than
6 a student loan, for which the applicant may qualify; or

7 (ii) Is ineligible to submit a FAFSA, qualifies for in-State tuition
8 under § 15–106.8 of this article, and timely submits an application for any State student
9 financial aid, other than a student loan, for which the applicant may qualify.

10 (c) (1) An applicant who receives any other educational grants or scholarships
11 that cover the applicant's full cost of attendance at the community college is ineligible to
12 receive an award under this subtitle.

13 (2) An applicant who has earned a bachelor's degree or an associate's
14 degree is ineligible to receive an award under this subtitle.

15 (3) An applicant who graduated from high school 5 or more years before
16 the date of application is not subject to the grade point average requirements established
17 in subsection (b)(3)(i) of this section for an initial award.

18 **(4) AN APPLICANT WHO ENROLLS IN A NONCREDIT VOCATIONAL
19 CERTIFICATE PROGRAM, ENROLLS IN A SEQUENCE OF NONCREDIT COURSES
20 LEADING TO LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION, OR PARTICIPATES IN A REGISTERED
21 APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM:**

22 **(I) SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A MARYLAND COMMUNITY
23 COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IF THE APPLICANT IS A RESIDENT OF THE
24 STATE OR GRADUATED FROM A HIGH SCHOOL IN THE STATE;**

25 **(II) IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE GRADE POINT AVERAGE
26 REQUIREMENTS IN SUBSECTION (B)(3) OF THIS SECTION;**

27 **(III) IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS IN SUBSECTION
28 (B)(6) OF THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE APPLICANT IS ENROLLING IN A NONCREDIT
29 PROGRAM FOR WHICH A FEDERAL PELL GRANT MAY BE USED; AND**

30 **(IV) MAY BE REQUIRED BY A COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO
31 COMPLETE AN APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION.**

32 (d) On request the community college shall assist an applicant to submit a FAFSA
33 or any other applications for State or federal student financial aid.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2024.