

# HOUSE BILL 980

F2

5r1991  
CF SB 772

---

By: **Delegate Crosby**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2025

Assigned to: Appropriations

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship**  
3 **Program – Eligibility**

4 FOR the purpose of expanding the eligibility for the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy  
5 Memorial Scholarship Program to include certain individuals; authorizing certain  
6 methods for verifying eligibility for the Program; and generally relating to the  
7 Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Education

10 Section 18–601(c)(1)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Education

15 Section 18–601(d)(2) and (f)(1)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Education**

21 18–601.

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

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 1. Died in the line of duty; or

26 2. Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the  
27 school employee 100% disabled; **[or]**

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

30 1. Died in the line of duty; or

31 2. Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the  
32 school employee 100% disabled; **OR**

1           **(VII) A SON, DAUGHTER, OR STEPCHILD OR THE SURVIVING**  
2 **SPOUSE OF A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO, AS A**  
3 **RESULT OF THE VETERAN’S DISABILITY RATING, IS OR WAS ELIGIBLE, AT THE TIME**  
4 **OF THE APPLICATION, FOR THE CHAPTER 35 SURVIVORS’ DEPENDENTS’**  
5 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFIT, AS DETERMINED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT**  
6 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

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

10                   **(II) TO DETERMINE THE ELIGIBILITY OF PERSONS WHO APPLY**  
11 **TO A POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION FOR THE EDWARD T. AND MARY A. CONROY**  
12 **MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, AN APPLICANT MAY SUBMIT A COPY OF THE**  
13 **APPLICANT’S CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CHAPTER 35 SURVIVORS’ AND**  
14 **DEPENDENTS’ EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFIT.**

15                   **(III) IF AN APPLICANT IS UNABLE TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF**  
16 **ELIGIBILITY UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A SCHOOL**  
17 **CERTIFYING OFFICIAL OR AN INSTITUTIONAL LIAISON MAY VERIFY THAT THE**  
18 **APPLICANT IS OR WAS ELIGIBLE FOR THE CHAPTER 35 SURVIVORS’ AND**  
19 **DEPENDENTS’ EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFIT.**

20           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
21 1, 2025.