

Chapter 176

(Senate Bill 1178)

AN ACT concerning

Higher Education – Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship – Repeal of Service Terminal Date

FOR the purpose of repealing the service terminal date required to be eligible for the Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship; and generally relating to the Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 18–604(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Education
Section 18–604(b) and (c)
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 – Education

18–604.

(a) For purposes of this section, an individual served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict if the individual was a member of the uniformed services of the United States who served in:

(1) Afghanistan or contiguous air space, as defined in federal regulations, on or after October 24, 2001[, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense]; or

(2) Iraq or contiguous waters or air space, as defined in federal regulations, on or after March 19, 2003[, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense].

(b) There is a Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship.

(c) An individual may apply to the Office for a scholarship under this section if the individual:

(1) Is a resident of Maryland;

(2) (i) Is accepted for admission or enrolled in the regular undergraduate program at an eligible institution; or

(ii) Is accepted for admission or 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; and

(3) (i) 1. Is a veteran, as defined under § 9-901 of the State Government Article, who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict;

2. Is an active duty member of the armed forces who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

3. Is a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States or the Maryland National Guard who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict described in subsection (a) of this section; or

(ii) Is a son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, or spouse of:

1. A veteran or active duty member of the armed forces who is serving or has served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

2. A member of the reserve or Maryland National Guard who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict described in subsection (a) of this section.

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 yea 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.