

Chapter 344

(Senate Bill 308)

AN ACT concerning

**Higher Education – Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship –  
~~Revisions~~ Eligibility**

FOR the purpose of ~~expanding eligibility for a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship to an applicant who enrolls in a certain continuing education course and an individual who is unemployed or laid off under certain circumstances;~~ providing that a certain applicant is not required to meet a certain grade point average requirement to be eligible for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship under certain circumstances; ~~requiring the Governor to include a certain amount in the State budget for a certain fiscal year in addition to the amount that is required for Maryland Community College Promise Scholarships;~~ and generally relating to the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Education  
Section 18–3603  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

**Article – Education**

18–3603.

(a) (1) A student must apply annually to the Commission to receive a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship award.

(2) The Office annually shall select eligible applicants and offer a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship award to each selected applicant to be used for tuition at a community college of the applicant’s choice.

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

(1) Is eligible for in–State tuition;

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

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

(ii) If the community college located in the county or region where the applicant lives does not offer the degree or certification program in which the applicant wants to enroll, then at any community college in the State that offers the program; or

(iii) At a community college in the State that has an on-campus residential facility for students~~†~~;

~~(H) ENROLLS IN A NONCREDIT CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE FOCUSED ON ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES OR CAREER DEVELOPMENT; OR~~

~~(H) ENROLLS IN A COURSE DUE TO BEING UNEMPLOYED OR LAID OFF FROM EMPLOYMENT THROUGH NO FAULT OF THE INDIVIDUAL;~~

(3) [Has] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION ~~(D)(2)~~ (C)(3) OF THIS SECTION, HAS earned a cumulative grade point average of:

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

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

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

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

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

(5) (i) Enrolls in:

1. At least 12 credits per semester at the community college;

~~†or~~

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

~~3. A NONCREDIT CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE FOCUSED ON ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES OR CAREER DEVELOPMENT; OR~~

(ii) Participates in a registered apprenticeship program; and

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

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

~~(c) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN APPLICANT SHALL BE ENROLLED AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OR, IN THE CASE OF A REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, IN THE REGION, WHERE THE APPLICANT LIVES.~~

~~(2) IF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OR REGION WHERE THE APPLICANT LIVES DOES NOT OFFER THE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM IN WHICH THE APPLICANT WANTS TO ENROLL, THEN THE APPLICANT MAY ENROLL IN ANY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE THAT OFFERS THE PROGRAM.~~

~~(3) AN APPLICANT MAY ENROLL AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE THAT HAS AN ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL FACILITY FOR STUDENTS.~~

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

(2) An applicant who ~~IS ENROLLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B)(2)(I) OF THIS SECTION AND~~ has earned a bachelor’s degree or an associate’s degree is ineligible to receive an award under this subtitle.

(3) AN APPLICANT WHO ~~IS ENROLLED IN A CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE OR ENROLLED IN A COURSE DUE TO BEING UNEMPLOYED OR LAID OFF FROM EMPLOYMENT THROUGH NO FAULT OF THE INDIVIDUAL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B)(2)(II) AND (III) OF THIS SECTION, RESPECTIVELY, GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL 5 OR MORE YEARS BEFORE THE DATE OF APPLICATION~~ IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (B)(3)(I) OF THIS SECTION FOR AN INITIAL AWARD.

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

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, In addition to the amount the Governor is required to include in the budget bill for fiscal year 2023 for Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship awards under § 18-3605 of the Education Article, the Governor shall include in the budget bill for fiscal year 2023 a general fund appropriation of \$3,500,000.~~

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

**Approved by the Governor, May 18, 2021.**