

Chapter 503

(Senate Bill 587)

AN ACT concerning

Higher Education – Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship

FOR the purpose of establishing the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship; establishing certain eligibility requirements for the scholarship; authorizing the use of the scholarship for certain educational expenses; authorizing the annual amount of the scholarship awarded to be up to a certain percentage of the equivalent tuition and certain fees of a certain institution of higher education; requiring the scholarship recipient to maintain a certain grade point average; providing for the duration of the scholarship; requiring scholarship applicants and recipients to file for certain federal and State financial aid by a certain date; authorizing legislative scholarship funds to be used for certain purposes; providing that funds for the scholarship are as provided in a certain annual budget by the Governor; establishing a certain fund; requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to administer a certain fund; providing that the fund is a certain special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to a certain section of the State Finance and Procurement Article; requiring the State Treasurer to hold the fund separately and requiring the Comptroller to account for the fund; directing the Commission to use certain gifts and grants for the fund in a certain manner; requiring the Commission to prepare a certain annual report regarding the fund; requiring a recipient of a certain scholarship to work for at least a certain number of years as a certain firefighter or certain rescue squad member in the State after completion of a certain program; requiring certain scholarship recipients to repay certain funds to the Commission under certain circumstances; requiring a certain amount of money to be distributed for the scholarship; repealing the distribution of a certain amount of money to a certain program; repealing the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Tuition Reimbursement Program; prohibiting the Commission from accepting new applicants for a certain program after a certain date; requiring any funds remaining in the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Tuition Reimbursement Program after a certain date to be transferred to a certain fund; requiring the Office of Student Financial Assistance to provide certain public notice of the establishment of the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship as a replacement for the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Tuition Reimbursement Program; defining certain terms; providing for the effective dates of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Education
Section 18–101 and 18–103
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section 18–603.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 7–301(f)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

BY repealing
Article – Education
Section 18–603
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

18–101.

- (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) “Commission” means the Maryland Higher Education Commission.
- (c) “Office” means the Office of Student Financial Assistance.
- (d) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Higher Education.

18–103.

(a) In this title, “in-State institution of higher education” means a degree-granting institution whose primary campus is located in Maryland and whose authority to grant degrees is conferred by Maryland.

(b) A scholarship, grant, loan, or other student financial assistance awarded by the Office may be used only at an in-State institution of higher education that possesses a certificate of approval from the Commission.

18-603.1.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION" MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NONPROFIT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE THAT POSSESSES A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FROM THE COMMISSION.

(3) "FUND" MEANS THE CHARLES W. RILEY FIREFIGHTER AND AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

(4) "SCHOLARSHIP" MEANS THE CHARLES W. RILEY FIREFIGHTER AND AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP.

(B) THERE IS A CHARLES W. RILEY FIREFIGHTER AND AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP.

(C) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO THE OFFICE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP 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) IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED AS A CAREER OR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER OR AMBULANCE OR RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER IN AN ORGANIZED FIRE DEPARTMENT OR AMBULANCE OR RESCUE SQUAD IN THE STATE.

(D) A SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION:

(1) MAY BE USED FOR THE TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES AT ANY ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION; AND

(2) ~~(i) MAY FOR A CAREER FIREFIGHTER OR AMBULANCE OR RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER, MAY~~ **MAY** BE UP TO 100% OF THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES OF A RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AT THE 4-YEAR PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, OTHER THAN THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE, WITH THE HIGHEST ANNUAL EXPENSES FOR A FULL-TIME RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE FOR COURSES CREDITED TOWARD A DEGREE IN FIRE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY OR, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY, FIRE SERVICE MANAGEMENT, OR PUBLIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION WITH A MINOR OR CONCENTRATION IN FIRE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY OR FIRE SERVICE MANAGEMENT; AND MANAGEMENT.

~~(ii) FOR A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER OR AMBULANCE OR RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER, MAY BE UP TO 100% OF THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES OF A RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AT THE 4-YEAR PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, OTHER THAN THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE, WITH THE HIGHEST ANNUAL EXPENSES FOR A FULL TIME RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE FOR COURSES CREDITED TOWARD A DEGREE.~~

(E) A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SHALL MAINTAIN A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 2.5 ON A 4.0 SCALE.

(F) EACH RECIPIENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION MAY HOLD THE AWARD FOR 5 YEARS OF FULL-TIME STUDY OR 8 YEARS OF PART-TIME STUDY.

(G) A SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT OR RECIPIENT SHALL FILE FOR FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID BY MARCH 1 OF EACH YEAR.

(H) A SENATOR OR DELEGATE MAY AUTHORIZE THE OFFICE TO AWARD ALL OR A PORTION OF THE FUNDS AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBTITLES 4 AND 5 OF THIS TITLE TO ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION.

(I) (1) FUNDS FOR THE CHARLES W. RILEY FIREFIGHTER AND AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE COMMISSION BY THE GOVERNOR.

(2) THERE IS A CHARLES W. RILEY FIREFIGHTER AND AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN THE COMMISSION.

(3) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

(4) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

(5) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

(6) THE COMMISSION:

(I) MAY ACCEPT ANY GIFT OR GRANT FROM ANY PERSON OR CORPORATION FOR THE FUND;

(II) SHALL USE ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT RECEIVES FOR A SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE FUND; AND

(III) SHALL DEPOSIT ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT RECEIVES FOR THE FUND WITH THE STATE TREASURER.

(7) (I) AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR, THE COMMISSION SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE FUND THAT INCLUDES AN ACCOUNTING OF ALL FINANCIAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES TO AND FROM THE FUND.

(II) THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A COPY OF THE REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(J) A RECIPIENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP SHALL WORK FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR AS A VOLUNTEER OR CAREER FIREFIGHTER OR AMBULANCE OR RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER IN AN ORGANIZED FIRE DEPARTMENT OR AMBULANCE OR RESCUE SQUAD IN THE STATE AFTER COMPLETION OF AN ELIGIBLE PROGRAM IN AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.

(K) A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SHALL REPAY THE COMMISSION THE FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE RECIPIENT DOES NOT PERFORM THE SERVICE OBLIGATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (J) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

7–301.

(f) (1) This subsection does not apply to a traffic case under § 21–202.1, § 21–809, or § 21–810 of the Transportation Article or to a parking or impounding case.

(2) In a traffic case under subsection (a)(1) of this section the court shall add a \$7.50 surcharge to the court costs imposed by the court.

(3) (i) The Comptroller annually shall credit the surcharges collected under this subsection as provided in this paragraph.

(ii) An amount annually as set forth in the State budget shall be distributed for the [Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Tuition Reimbursement Program] **CHARLES W. RILEY FIREFIGHTER AND AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP** as established in § [18–603] **18–603.1** of the Education Article.

(iii) After the distribution under subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, \$200,000 shall be distributed to the Maryland State Firemen’s Association.

(iv) After the distribution under subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) of this paragraph and until a total of \$20,000,000 has been distributed to the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund since the establishment of the surcharge under this subsection, the remainder shall be credited to the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund to be used in accordance with the provisions of Title 8, Subtitle 2 of the Public Safety Article.

(v) After a total of \$20,000,000 has been distributed to the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund, 100% of the remainder shall be credited to the Maryland Emergency Medical Systems Operation Fund established under § 13–955 of the Transportation Article.

(vi) On or before September 1 of each year until \$20,000,000 has been distributed to the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund, the State Court Administrator shall submit a report to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on the amount of revenue distributed to the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund under this paragraph.

Article – Education

[18–603.

(a) There is a Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Tuition Reimbursement Program under this section.

(b) As provided in the State budget, any career or volunteer firefighter or ambulance or rescue squad member who is a resident of Maryland shall receive partial or full and complete reimbursement by the Office for tuition costs not to exceed the resident tuition rates at the 4-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University College and University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate, for courses credited toward a degree in fire service technology or emergency medical technology.

(c) (1) The tuition reimbursement application shall be filed with the Office no later than July 1 immediately following the academic year for which tuition reimbursement is sought.

(2) Payment shall be made 1 year after successful completion of each academic year.

(3) Payment may be made only if the applicant is still employed or actively engaged as a career or volunteer firefighter or ambulance or rescue squad member in an organized fire department or ambulance or rescue squad in this State.]

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Higher Education Commission may not accept new applications for the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Tuition Reimbursement Program after July 1, 2014.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on October 2, 2015, any funds remaining in the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Tuition Reimbursement Program shall be transferred to the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship Fund as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Office of Student Financial Assistance in the Maryland Higher Education Commission shall provide the public with notice of the establishment of the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship as a replacement for the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Tuition Reimbursement Program, including posting information on the Office of Student Financial Assistance of the Maryland Higher Education Commission Web site and conducting outreach activities to fire departments and ambulance and rescue squads in the State.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section 6 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2013.