

## Chapter 543

(House Bill 1432)

AN ACT concerning

### Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship Program

FOR the purpose of renaming the Maryland Teacher Scholarship to be the Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship and altering certain elements of the scholarship program; requiring certain institutions of higher education to provide certain matching funds to participate in a certain program; altering the eligibility criteria and the service obligation for the scholarship; authorizing certain recipients to work in certain public schools and certain public prekindergarten programs to satisfy a certain service obligation under certain circumstances; altering the amount of a certain award; requiring certain institutions of higher education to develop and implement a certain honors program in response to certain dedication and accomplishment under certain circumstances; requiring the Governor annually to include certain funds in the State budget for the Maryland Higher Education Commission to make certain awards under this Act; ~~requiring certain awards to be made in certain years~~; requiring the Office of Student Financial Assistance to award certain scholarships in a manner that reflects ethnic, gender, racial, and geographic diversity; altering certain definitions; making a stylistic change; and generally relating to scholarships for individuals who pledge to work as public school and public prekindergarten teachers.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 18–2201 through 18–2207 and 18–2210

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 18–2208 and 18–2209

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

BY repealing

Article – Education

Section 18–2209

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

**Article – Education**

18–2201.

- (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) “Eligible institution” means a ~~public~~:

**(1) PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION** [or private nonprofit] institution ~~of higher education~~ in [this] THE State that possesses a certificate of approval from the ~~Maryland Higher Education~~ Commission **AND HAS A DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL, OR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION; OR**

**(2) PRIVATE NONPROFIT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE THAT POSSESSES A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FROM THE COMMISSION, HAS A DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL, OR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, AND AGREES TO PROVIDE A MATCHING GRANT TO AN UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE STUDENT, AS APPROPRIATE, WHO RECEIVES A TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP IN THE LESSER OF:**

**(I) 100% OF THE ANNUAL COST OF TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK; OR**

**(II) 50% OF THE COST OF TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES AT THE PRIVATE NONPROFIT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

(c) “Office” means the Office of Student Financial Assistance as defined in § 18–101(c) of this title.

(d) (1) “Service obligation” means to teach full time in the State as a teacher in a Maryland public ~~elementary or secondary~~ school **OR A PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM THAT HAS AT LEAST 50% OF ITS STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS (FRPM).**

(2) “Service obligation” does not mean employment as teaching assistants, volunteer service, paid fellowships, or internships.

18–2202.

There is a program of [Maryland Teacher Scholarships] **TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIPS** that are awarded under this subtitle for students

who pledge to work as public ~~elementary and secondary~~ school **OR PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN** teachers in [this] **THE State** upon completion of their studies **AT SCHOOLS THAT HAVE AT LEAST 50% OF THE STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS (FRPM).**

18-2203.

(a) The Office shall annually select eligible students and offer a scholarship to each student selected to be used at an eligible institution of their choice.

(b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a recipient of the [Maryland Teacher Scholarship] **TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP** shall:

(i) Be a Maryland resident **OR HAVE GRADUATED FROM A MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL;**

(ii) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, be accepted for admission or currently enrolled at an eligible institution as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a course of study or program in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;

(iii) 1. For a student currently enrolled in high school, have earned an overall grade point average of at least [3.0] **3.3** on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent after completion of the first semester of the senior year; or

2. For a student currently enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student, have maintained a grade point average of at least [3.0] **3.3** on a 4.0 scale and have been making satisfactory progress toward a degree in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;

**(IV) HAVE ACHIEVED A SCORE OF AT LEAST;**

**1. 500 ON THE READING AND MATH PORTIONS OF THE SAT, WITH A COMBINED SCORE OF AT LEAST 1100 ON THE READING AND MATH PORTIONS OF THE SAT;**

**2. A COMPOSITE ACT SCORE OF 25; OR**

**3. 50% ON THE GRE;**

[(iv)] (v) Sign a letter of intent to perform the service obligation upon completion of the recipient's required studies;

and [(v)] (VI) Accept any other conditions attached to the award;

[(vi)] (VII) Satisfy any additional criteria the Commission may establish.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, an individual who, at the time the individual is scheduled to matriculate at an eligible institution, will have been employed as a teaching assistant at a public ~~elementary or secondary~~ school **OR PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM** in the State for at least 2 years:

(i) May apply for a [Maryland Teacher Scholarship] **TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP** under this subtitle; and

(ii) Is eligible to hold a [Maryland Teacher Scholarship] **TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP** as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student.

(c) A recipient of the [Maryland Teacher Scholarship] **TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP** may not hold a Maryland professional teacher's certificate.

(d) (1) Applicants who are secondary school students shall provide a high school transcript after completion of the first semester of their senior year.

(2) Applicants who are currently enrolled in an eligible institution shall provide the most recent college transcript, or if not applicable, the applicant may submit a final high school transcript.

(3) Applicants who are not currently enrolled in an eligible institution, but who are high school graduates, shall provide a final high school transcript.

(4) Applicants who are high school graduates and are not currently enrolled in an eligible institution, but have completed some courses at an eligible institution, shall provide the most recent college transcript.

(5) Applicants who are not currently enrolled in an eligible institution, but who are college graduates, shall provide a final college transcript.

18-2204.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the recipient of a [Maryland Teacher Scholarship] **TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP** shall repay the Commission the funds received as set forth in § 18-112 of this title if the recipient does not:

(1) Satisfy the degree requirements of the eligible course of study or program or fulfill other requirements as provided in this subtitle;

(2) [Perform] **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, PERFORM** the service obligation **TO TEACH IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR A PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM THAT HAS AT LEAST 50% OF ITS STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS (FRPM)** for 1 year for each year that the recipient has a scholarship awarded under this subtitle; and

(3) Become professionally certified to teach in the State of Maryland within the time period specified by the Commission in consultation with the Maryland Department of Education.

**(B) IF A RECIPIENT IS UNABLE TO PERFORM THE SERVICE OBLIGATION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE BECAUSE THERE ARE NO AVAILABLE POSITIONS IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM THAT HAS AT LEAST 50% OF ITS STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS (FRPM), THE RECIPIENT MAY WORK IN ANY PUBLIC SCHOOL OR PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM IN THE STATE.**

**[(b)] (C)** The Office shall forgive a recipient of a [Maryland Teacher Scholarship] **TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP** for 2 years of an award if:

(1) The recipient has taken the teacher certification examination, approved by the State Board of Education, in 2 consecutive years; and

(2) The recipient fails to pass the teacher certification examination within the time period specified by the Commission in accordance with subsection (a)(3) of this section.

18-2205.

**(A)** The annual scholarship award shall be: [in the amount of:

(1) \$2,000 for a full-time undergraduate student, or \$1,000 for a part-time undergraduate student, enrolled at a 2-year eligible institution;

(2) \$5,000 for a full-time undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a 4-year eligible institution; or

(3) \$2,500 for a part-time undergraduate or graduate student enrolled at a 4-year eligible institution]

**(1) AT A PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION IN THE STATE THAT HAS A DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL, OR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, 100% OF THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL TUITION, MANDATORY FEES, AND ROOM AND BOARD OF A RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT OR GRADUATE STUDENT, AS APPROPRIATE, AT A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE THAT HAS A SCHOOL OF EDUCATION THE PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION; OR**

**(2) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, AT A PRIVATE NONPROFIT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE THAT HAS A DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL, OR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO:**

**(i) THE LESSER OF:**

**1. 100% OF THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES OF A RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT OR GRADUATE STUDENT, AS APPROPRIATE, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK; OR**

**2. 50% OF THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES OF A RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE STUDENT, AS APPROPRIATE, AT THE ELIGIBLE PRIVATE NONPROFIT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND**

**(ii) 100% OF THE ROOM AND BOARD OF A RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT OR GRADUATE STUDENT, AS APPROPRIATE, AT THE ELIGIBLE PRIVATE NONPROFIT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE.**

**(B) A PRIVATE NONPROFIT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE A MATCHING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE AWARD CALCULATED IN SUBSECTION (A)(2)(I) OF THIS SECTION.**

18-2206.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, each recipient of a [Maryland Teacher Scholarship] **TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP** may renew the award three times if the recipient:

(1) Continues to be a resident of the State **OR GRADUATED FROM A HIGH SCHOOL IN THE STATE;**

(2) Continues to be a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student at an eligible institution as determined by the Office;

(3) Has achieved a cumulative grade point average of at least ~~[3.0]~~ **3.3** on a 4.0 scale and maintains this minimum cumulative grade point average throughout the remainder of this award, or failing to do so, provides evidence of extenuating circumstances;

(4) In the judgment of the institution, is making satisfactory progress toward a degree; and

(5) Maintains the standards of the institution.

(b) ~~(1) Each recipient of a [Maryland Teacher Scholarship] TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP who is enrolled in an associate degree program as permitted in this subtitle may renew the award two times if the recipient is enrolled in an associate degree program that, as determined by the institution, requires 3 years to complete.~~

~~(2)~~ Each recipient of the [Maryland Teacher Scholarship] **TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP** may renew the annual award four times if the recipient is enrolled in a course of study that, as determined by the institution, requires 5 years to complete.

18-2207.

A [Maryland Teacher Scholarship] **TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP** may be used for tuition ~~and~~, mandatory fees, **AND ROOM AND BOARD** at any eligible institution.

**18-2208.**

**IF AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION HAS ENROLLED AT LEAST 15 RECIPIENTS OF A TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP, THE ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN ENRICHED HONORS PROGRAM OF EDUCATION THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO EXCEPTIONAL DEDICATION AND MERIT-BASED ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THE STUDY OF EDUCATION AND PREPARATION FOR THE TEACHING PROFESSION.**

[18-2209.

Funds for the Maryland Teacher Scholarship program shall be as provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the Governor.]

**18-2209.**

THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL INCLUDE FUNDS IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE COMMISSION TO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

~~(1) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2015, A SCHOLARSHIP TO 40 APPLICANTS;~~

~~(2) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2016, A SCHOLARSHIP TO 80 APPLICANTS;~~

~~(3) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2017, A SCHOLARSHIP TO 120 APPLICANTS; AND~~

~~(4) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2018, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, A SCHOLARSHIP TO 160 APPLICANTS.~~

18-2210.

The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall ~~publicize~~:

**(1) PUBLICIZE the availability of [Maryland Teacher Scholarships] TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIPS; AND**

**(2) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IN A MANNER THAT REFLECTS ETHNIC, GENDER, RACIAL, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2014.