

# HOUSE BILL 16

F2

8lr0721

(PRE-FILED)

---

By: ~~Delegate Turner~~ **Delegates Turner, A. Washington, and Tarlau**

Requested: October 2, 2017

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2018

Assigned to: Ways and Means

---

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 27, 2018

---

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Colleges – Near Completers and Maryland Community College**  
3 **Promise Scholarships**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to include a certain amount in the State budget  
5 for certain fiscal years for the Maryland Higher Education Commission to establish  
6 a near completer communication campaign; requiring the Commission to develop  
7 and implement a certain web-based match program for near completers; requiring  
8 the Commission to encourage certain institutions of higher education to participate  
9 in a certain program; requiring certain institutions to provide the Commission with  
10 certain information in a certain format; requiring the Commission to make a certain  
11 determination and send certain information to near completers; requiring the  
12 Governor to include a certain amount in the State budget for certain fiscal years for  
13 the Commission to develop and implement a certain match program; establishing  
14 eligibility requirements for a certain match program; requiring the Governor to  
15 include a certain amount in the State budget for certain fiscal years for the  
16 Commission to provide certain awards to certain students subject to certain  
17 limitations; requiring certain grants to be provided on a first-come, first-served  
18 basis; requiring the Commission and certain community colleges to make certain  
19 reports to the General Assembly on or before certain dates; prohibiting certain  
20 community colleges from increasing certain tuition rates more than the higher of  
21 certain amounts beginning in a certain academic year; establishing a Maryland  
22 Community College Promise Scholarship program; requiring the Office of Student  
23 Financial Assistance in the Maryland Higher Education Commission to publicize the  
24 availability of certain scholarships; requiring the Office to annually select and offer

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 a certain scholarship award to certain applicants; establishing the eligibility  
 2 requirements for receiving a certain scholarship; requiring a certain community  
 3 college to assist certain applicants with a certain application on request; requiring  
 4 the scholarship award to be not more than a certain amount beginning in a certain  
 5 academic year; specifying how certain financial aid shall be credited to the tuition of  
 6 a scholarship recipient; specifying that initial awards shall be provided to recipients  
 7 ~~on a first-come, first-served basis;~~ based on greatest demonstrated financial need;  
 8 specifying a priority for awards in subsequent years; requiring eligible applicants  
 9 who do not receive a certain award to be notified and placed on a waiting list;  
 10 prohibiting a certain scholarship award from being made unless a recipient signs a  
 11 certain agreement; providing for the duration of the scholarship award; authorizing  
 12 the Office to extend the duration of the award under certain circumstances;  
 13 establishing the requirements for a recipient to hold a scholarship award; requiring  
 14 that a certain scholarship award be converted into a student loan under certain  
 15 circumstances; authorizing the Office to waive or defer repayment of a certain  
 16 student loan under certain circumstances; requiring the Governor to include a  
 17 certain annual appropriation in the State budget for the scholarship program;  
 18 requiring the Commission to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Commission to  
 19 report certain information to the General Assembly on or before certain dates;  
 20 providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; defining certain terms;  
 21 and generally relating to near completers and community college scholarships.

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

23 Article – Education

24 Section 11–209

25 Annotated Code of Maryland

26 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

27 BY adding to

28 Article – Education

29 Section 16–317 and 16–514; and 18–3401 through 18–3407 to be under the new  
 30 subtitle “Subtitle 34. Maryland Community College Promise Scholarships”

31 Annotated Code of Maryland

32 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

34 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

35 **Article – Education**

36 11–209.

37 (a) In this section, “near completer” means an individual who has completed some  
 38 college credits but does not have a college degree and is no longer attending an institution  
 39 of higher education.

1           **(b) (1) (I)** The Commission, in collaboration with institutions of higher  
2 education, shall create a statewide communication campaign to identify near completers in  
3 the State and to encourage near completers to re-enroll in an institution of higher  
4 education to earn a degree.

5                           **(II) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2020 THROUGH 2024, THE**  
6 **GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET \$125,000 TO THE COMMISSION**  
7 **TO FUND A STATEWIDE COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN.**

8           **[(c)] (2)** The communication campaign shall:

9                           **[(1)] (I)** Make use of a variety of marketing media, including billboards,  
10 brochures, and electronic resources;

11                           **[(2)] (II)** Provide a centralized contact point for near completers to get  
12 information about and assistance with re-enrolling;

13                           **[(3)] (III)** Make readily available contact information for each public  
14 institution of higher education in the State; and

15                           **[(4)] (IV)** Focus on near completers who:

16   **[(i)] 1.** Earned a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a scale  
17 of 4.0 while in college; and

18   **[(ii) 1.] 2. A.** Earned at least 45 credit hours if the individual  
19 attended a community college; or

20   **[2.] B.** Earned at least 90 credit hours if the individual  
21 attended a senior higher education institution.

22           **[(d) (1)]** The Commission shall develop and implement a plan that would  
23 provide an incentive to:

24   **(i)** A near completer to re-enroll and earn a degree; and

25   **(ii)** A college to identify and graduate near completers.

26                           **(2)** The incentive plan shall use all available resources, including  
27 institutional funds, private sector funds, and State funds.]

28           **(C) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A**  
29 **CENTRALIZED WEB-BASED MATCH PROGRAM FOR NEAR COMPLETERS THAT**  
30 **FACILITATES THE MATCHING OF A NEAR COMPLETER WITH ANY INSTITUTION OF**

1 HIGHER EDUCATION AT WHICH THE NEAR COMPLETER WOULD BE ABLE TO  
2 COMPLETE THE DEGREE.

3 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL ENCOURAGE EACH INSTITUTION OF  
4 HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MATCH PROGRAM AT NO  
5 COST TO THE INSTITUTION.

6 (3) (I) AN INSTITUTION THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE MATCH  
7 PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE THE COMMISSION WITH INFORMATION REGARDING  
8 NEAR COMPLETERS WHO ATTENDED THE INSTITUTION, AS REQUESTED BY THE  
9 COMMISSION AND IN THE FORMAT IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION.

10 (II) ON RECEIPT OF INFORMATION UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I)  
11 OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE COMMISSION SHALL:

12 1. DETERMINE ANY MATCHES BETWEEN A NEAR  
13 COMPLETER AND INSTITUTIONS; AND

14 2. SEND INFORMATION TO THE NEAR COMPLETER  
15 REGARDING THE MATCHES, ANY INCENTIVES OFFERED FOR NEAR COMPLETERS BY  
16 THE STATE OR BY THE INSTITUTIONS, AND ANY OTHER FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE  
17 TO THE NEAR COMPLETER.

18 (4) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2020 THROUGH 2024, THE  
19 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET \$50,000 TO THE COMMISSION  
20 TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE MATCH PROGRAM FOR NEAR COMPLETERS  
21 DESCRIBED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

22 (D) (1) A NEAR COMPLETER IS ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS  
23 SECTION IF THE NEAR COMPLETER:

24 (I) EARNED A MINIMUM GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 2.0 ON A  
25 SCALE OF 4.0 WHILE IN COLLEGE; AND

26 (II) 1. EARNED AT LEAST 45 CREDIT HOURS IF THE  
27 INDIVIDUAL ATTENDED A COMMUNITY COLLEGE; OR

28 2. EARNED AT LEAST 90 CREDIT HOURS IF THE  
29 INDIVIDUAL ATTENDED A SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION.

30 (2) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET THE  
31 AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO THE COMMISSION  
32 TO PROVIDE TO A NEAR COMPLETER THE FOLLOWING AMOUNT:

1           **(I) FOR A NEAR COMPLETER WHO RE-ENROLLS IN A**  
2 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE, UP TO ONE-THIRD OF THE IN-COUNTY TUITION CHARGE; OR**

3           **(II) FOR A NEAR COMPLETER WHO RE-ENROLLS IN A PUBLIC**  
4 **SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION, UP TO ONE-THIRD OF THE RESIDENT**  
5 **UNDERGRADUATE TUITION CHARGE.**

6           **(3) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS IN**  
7 **THE STATE BUDGET TO THE COMMISSION FOR NEAR COMPLETER GRANTS UNDER**  
8 **PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION:**

9           **(I) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020, \$250,000; AND**

10           **(II) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2021 THROUGH 2024,**  
11 **\$375,000.**

12           **(4) A GRANT PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE USED ONLY**  
13 **FOR TUITION AND MAY NOT BE USED FOR FEES OR OTHER CHARGES OR EXPENSES**  
14 **RELATED TO ATTENDING AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

15           **(5) ALL NONLOAN AID RECEIVED BY THE NEAR COMPLETER SHALL BE**  
16 **CREDITED TO THE NEAR COMPLETER'S TUITION BEFORE THE CALCULATION OF THE**  
17 **GRANT AMOUNT PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.**

18           **(6) GRANTS SHALL BE PROVIDED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED**  
19 **BASIS.**

20           **(e) The Commission and institutions of higher education may implement other**  
21 **near completer initiatives in addition to the campaign and [incentive plan] MATCH**  
22 **PROGRAM required under this section.**

23           **(f) By December 1, [2013] 2019, AND EVERY DECEMBER 1 THROUGH 2025,**  
24 **the Commission shall submit a report, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State**  
25 **Government Article, to the General Assembly on the details of the statewide**  
26 **communication campaign and the [incentive plan] MATCH PROGRAM, including [the**  
27 **expected timeline for] implementation OF THE CAMPAIGN AND MATCH PROGRAM AND**  
28 **A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE EXPENDITURES UNDER THE GRANT PROGRAM**  
29 **ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.**

30           **SUBTITLE 34. MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS.**

31           **18-3401.**

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

3 (B) "ANNUAL ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME" MEANS THE TOTAL OF THE  
4 COMBINED ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT'S  
5 PARENTS, OR THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT'S SPOUSE IF THE APPLICANT IS  
6 MARRIED, AS REPORTED ON THE MOST RECENT FEDERAL OR STATE INCOME TAX  
7 RETURN.

8 (C) "COMMUNITY COLLEGE" INCLUDES BALTIMORE CITY COMMUNITY  
9 COLLEGE.

10 (D) (1) "TUITION" MEANS THE BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL CHARGE FOR  
11 COURSES OFFERED AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

12 (2) "TUITION" INCLUDES ANY FEES FOR:

13 (I) REGISTRATION;

14 (II) APPLICATION;

15 (III) ADMINISTRATION;

16 (IV) LABORATORY WORK; AND

17 (V) OTHER MANDATORY FEES.

18 18-3402.

19 (A) THERE IS A PROGRAM OF MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE  
20 SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE STATE THAT ARE AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

21 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE TUITION ASSISTANCE  
22 FOR STUDENTS TO ATTEND A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE.

23 (C) THE OFFICE SHALL PUBLICIZE THE AVAILABILITY OF MARYLAND  
24 COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS.

25 18-3403.

26 (A) (1) A STUDENT MUST APPLY ANNUALLY TO THE COMMISSION TO  
27 RECEIVE A MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD.

28 (2) THE OFFICE ANNUALLY SHALL SELECT ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS  
29 AND OFFER A MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

1 TO EACH SELECTED APPLICANT TO BE USED FOR TUITION AT A COMMUNITY  
2 COLLEGE OF THE APPLICANT'S CHOICE.

3 (B) AN APPLICANT IS ELIGIBLE FOR A MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
4 PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP IF THE APPLICANT:

5 (1) ~~IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD~~  
6 ~~IMMEDIATELY BEFORE ENROLLING IN A COMMUNITY COLLEGE~~ ELIGIBLE  
7 FOR IN-STATE TUITION;

8 (2) ENROLLS AS A CANDIDATE FOR A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE, A  
9 CERTIFICATE, OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE  
10 STATE WITHIN 2 YEARS AFTER GRADUATING FROM A HIGH SCHOOL ~~IN THE STATE~~  
11 OR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING A GED IN THE STATE;

12 (3) HAS EARNED AN OVERALL HIGH SCHOOL GRADE POINT AVERAGE  
13 OF AT LEAST 2.3 ON A 4.0 SCALE OR ITS EQUIVALENT;

14 (4) HAS AN ANNUAL ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME OF NOT MORE THAN:

15 (I) ~~\$100,000~~ \$90,000 IF THE APPLICANT IS SINGLE OR RESIDES  
16 IN A SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLD; OR

17 (II) ~~\$150,000~~ \$125,000 IF THE APPLICANT IS MARRIED OR  
18 RESIDES IN A TWO-PARENT HOUSEHOLD;

19 (5) ENROLLS IN AT LEAST 12 CREDITS PER SEMESTER AT THE  
20 COMMUNITY COLLEGE; AND

21 (6) (I) TIMELY SUBMITS A FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL  
22 STUDENT AID (FAFSA) OR ANY OTHER APPLICATIONS FOR ANY STATE OR FEDERAL  
23 STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, OTHER THAN A STUDENT LOAN, FOR WHICH THE  
24 APPLICANT MAY QUALIFY; OR

25 (II) IS INELIGIBLE TO SUBMIT A FAFSA, QUALIFIES  
26 FOR IN-STATE TUITION UNDER § 15-106.8 OF THIS ARTICLE, AND TIMELY SUBMITS  
27 AN APPLICATION FOR ANY STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, OTHER THAN A STUDENT  
28 LOAN, FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT MAY QUALIFY.

29 (C) (1) AN APPLICANT WHO RECEIVES ANY OTHER EDUCATIONAL  
30 GRANTS OR SCHOLARSHIPS THAT COVER THE APPLICANT'S FULL COST OF  
31 ATTENDANCE AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS INELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE AN AWARD  
32 UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.





1           **(3) HAVE THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CONVERTED INTO A STUDENT**  
2 **LOAN PAYABLE TO THE STATE IF THE RECIPIENT FAILS TO FULFILL THE SERVICE**  
3 **OBLIGATION REQUIRED IN ITEMS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

4           **(D) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
5 **EACH RECIPIENT MAY HOLD THE AWARD UNTIL THE EARLIER OF:**

6                   **(I) ~~2~~ 3 YEARS AFTER FIRST ENROLLING AS A CANDIDATE FOR A**  
7 **VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE, A CERTIFICATE, OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE AT A**  
8 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE; OR**

9                   **(II) THE DATE THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS AWARDED ~~A~~**  
10 **~~VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE OR~~ AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE.**

11           **(2) THE OFFICE MAY EXTEND THE DURATION OF AN AWARD FOR AN**  
12 **ALLOWABLE INTERRUPTION OF STUDY IF THE RECIPIENT PROVIDES TO THE OFFICE**  
13 **SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE OF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES THAT PREVENT THE**  
14 **RECIPIENT FROM CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT.**

15           **(3) EACH RECIPIENT MAY HOLD THE AWARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
16 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ONLY IF THE RECIPIENT:**

17                   **(I) CONTINUES TO BE ~~A RESIDENT OF THE STATE~~ ELIGIBLE**  
18 **FOR IN-STATE TUITION;**

19                   **(II) CONTINUES TO ENROLL IN AND COMPLETE AT LEAST 12**  
20 **CREDITS PER SEMESTER OR ITS EQUIVALENT AS DETERMINED BY THE OFFICE;**

21                   **(III) MAINTAINS A CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT**  
22 **LEAST 2.5 ON A 4.0 SCALE OR ITS EQUIVALENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE AWARD**  
23 **OR, FAILING TO DO SO, PROVIDES TO THE OFFICE SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE OF**  
24 **EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES;**

25                   **(IV) MAKES SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD A VOCATIONAL**  
26 **CERTIFICATE, A CERTIFICATE, OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE;**

27                   **(V) CONTINUES TO MEET THE INCOME LIMITATIONS UNDER §**  
28 **18-3403(B)(4) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

29                   **(VI) CONTINUES TO TIMELY SUBMIT AN APPLICATION UNDER §**  
30 **18-3403(B)(6).**

1 (E) (1) IF THE RECIPIENT DOES NOT PERFORM THE SERVICE OBLIGATION  
2 REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD  
3 SHALL BE CONVERTED INTO A STUDENT LOAN.

4 (2) THE OFFICE MAY WAIVE OR DEFER REPAYMENT OF THE STUDENT  
5 LOAN IF THE RECIPIENT PROVIDES SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE OF EXTENUATING  
6 CIRCUMSTANCES THAT PREVENT THE RECIPIENT FROM FULFILLING THE SERVICE  
7 OBLIGATION.

8 18-3405.

9 THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE AN ANNUAL APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST  
10 \$10,000,000 IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE COMMISSION TO DISBURSE  
11 MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THIS  
12 SUBTITLE.

13 18-3406.

14 (A) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO  
15 IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

16 (B) THE REGULATIONS SHALL INCLUDE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR  
17 REPAYMENT OF ANY AWARD AMOUNT THAT IS CONVERTED TO A LOAN UNDER §  
18 18-3404 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

19 18-3407.

20 ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2020, AND EACH DECEMBER 1 THEREAFTER,  
21 THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE  
22 WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
23 OF THE MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM,  
24 INCLUDING:

25 (1) THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS WHO RECEIVED A MARYLAND  
26 COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR;

27 (2) THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ENROLLED IN AN  
28 ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE PROGRAM;

29 (3) THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ENROLLED IN A  
30 VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM;

31 (4) THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ENROLLED IN A  
32 CERTIFICATE PROGRAM;



1 June 30, 2021, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General  
2 Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

---

Governor.

---

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

---

President of the Senate.