

# SENATE BILL 308

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CF 8lr0162

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By: **The President (By Request – Administration) and Senators Bates, Cassilly, Eckardt, Edwards, Hershey, Hough, Jennings, Klausmeier, Mathias, Norman, Ready, Reilly, Salling, and Serafini**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2018

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Foster Care Recipients and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth –**  
3 **Employment Program**  
4 **(Fostering Employment Act of 2018)**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing the Fostering Employment Program to provide  
6 employment opportunities for certain foster care recipients and unaccompanied  
7 homeless youth through training leading to certain credentials; requiring the  
8 Department of Human Services and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and  
9 Regulation jointly to supervise the Program; requiring the Department of Human  
10 Services, in coordination with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation,  
11 to develop and implement the Program and coordinate with local departments of  
12 social services and local workforce development boards; requiring the Program to  
13 provide certain foster care recipients and unaccompanied homeless youth with  
14 opportunities to obtain certain credentials through certain registered apprenticeship  
15 programs or certain job readiness training; establishing that a certain foster care  
16 recipient or unaccompanied homeless youth who meets certain requirements is  
17 eligible to receive funding under the Program; authorizing the Department of  
18 Human Services and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation jointly to  
19 adopt certain regulations; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the  
20 Fostering Employment Program.

21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
22 Article – Human Services  
23 Section 4–101(a) and (c)  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2007 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

26 BY adding to  
27 Article – Human Services

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 4–305  
2 Annotated Code of Maryland  
3 (2007 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

6 **Article – Human Services**

7 4–101.

8 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

9 (c) “Department” means the Department of Human Services.

10 **4–305.**

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

13 (2) “CREDENTIAL” MEANS A RECOGNIZED:

14 (I) EDUCATIONAL DIPLOMA;

15 (II) CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE;

16 (III) OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE;

17 (IV) APPRENTICESHIP CERTIFICATE;

18 (V) INDUSTRY–RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION; OR

19 (VI) AWARD FOR SKILLS ATTAINMENT AND COMPLETION,  
20 ISSUED BY AN APPROVED TRAINING PROVIDER IN THE STATE OR THIRD–PARTY  
21 CREDENTIAL PROVIDER.

22 (3) “FOSTER CARE RECIPIENT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §  
23 15–106.1 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.

24 (4) (I) “JOB READINESS TRAINING” MEANS TRAINING FOR THE  
25 PURPOSE OF ASSISTING AND SUPPORTING JOBSEEKERS IN OVERCOMING  
26 INDIVIDUAL BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT AND DEVELOPING THE SKILLS NECESSARY  
27 TO MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT AND TO QUALIFY FOR SKILLS TRAINING  
28 OPPORTUNITIES.

1                   **(II) “JOB READINESS TRAINING” INCLUDES:**

2                   1.     **OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT;**

3                   2.     **GED PREPARATION;**

4                   3.     **LITERACY ADVANCEMENT;**

5                   4.     **FINANCIAL STABILITY SERVICES, INCLUDING**  
6 **FINANCIAL COACHING;**

7                   5.     **CREDIT COUNSELING; AND**

8                   6.     **ASSISTANCE IN MEETING TRAINING-RELATED**  
9 **TRANSPORTATION AND CHILD CARE NEEDS.**

10                  **(5) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE FOSTERING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**  
11 **ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

12                  **(6) “REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM” MEANS A FORMAL**  
13 **TRAINING PROGRAM APPROVED AND REGISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,**  
14 **LICENSING, AND REGULATION, OR BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF**  
15 **LABOR’S OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP.**

16                  **(7) “TRAINING PROVIDER” MEANS AN ENTITY THAT:**

17                         **(I) PROVIDES TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO**  
18 **INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED IN § 11-504(B) OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**  
19 **ARTICLE; OR**

20                         **(II) IS AWARDED A STRATEGIC INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP GRANT**  
21 **UNDER § 11-703 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.**

22                  **(8) “UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH” HAS THE MEANING**  
23 **STATED IN § 15-106.1 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.**

24                  **(9) “WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA” MEANS A GEOGRAPHIC**  
25 **AREA DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 106 OF THE**  
26 **FEDERAL WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.**

27                  **(B) THERE IS A FOSTERING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.**

1           **(C) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND**  
2 **REGULATION SHALL JOINTLY SUPERVISE THE PROGRAM.**

3           **(D) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT**  
4 **OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOSTER CARE RECIPIENTS AND UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS**  
5 **YOUTH THROUGH TRAINING THAT LEADS TO INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED**  
6 **CREDENTIALS.**

7           **(E) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
8 **LABOR, LICENSING, AND REGULATION, SHALL:**

9                   **(1) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM; AND**

10                   **(2) COORDINATE WITH:**

11                           **(I) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES; AND**

12                           **(II) THE LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS IN THE**  
13 **STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS.**

14           **(F) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE FOSTER CARE RECIPIENTS AND**  
15 **UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO OBTAIN**  
16 **CREDENTIALS THROUGH:**

17                   **(1) A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM; OR**

18                   **(2) JOB READINESS TRAINING.**

19           **(G) A FOSTER CARE RECIPIENT OR AN UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH**  
20 **WHO IS NOT OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A TUITION EXEMPTION UNDER §**  
21 **15-106.1 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FUNDING UNDER**  
22 **THE PROGRAM IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS:**

23                   **(1) AT LEAST 16 YEARS OF AGE; AND**

24                   **(2) ENROLLED IN:**

25                           **(I) A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM; OR**

26                           **(II) JOB READINESS TRAINING THROUGH A TRAINING**  
27 **PROVIDER FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND**  
28 **REGULATION.**

1           **(H) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND**  
2 **REGULATION JOINTLY MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.**

3           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
4 1, 2018.