

HOUSE BILL 364

F2
HB 854/14 – W&M

5lr1964
CF 5lr1963

By: **Delegates Rosenberg, Platt, and Reznik**
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2015
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – College Admissions Outreach Program for High-Achieving**
3 **Students – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the College Admissions Outreach Program for
5 High-Achieving Students; requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission
6 and the Maryland State Department of Education, in collaboration with certain
7 educational officials, agencies, and organizations, to jointly administer the Program;
8 requiring the Program to provide certain information on the college admissions
9 process to certain students free of charge; requiring the Commission and the
10 Department to adopt certain regulations; defining certain terms; and generally
11 relating to the College Admissions Outreach Program for High-Achieving Students.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Education
14 Section 18–301 and 18–303
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Education
19 Section 18–303.2
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Education**

25 18–301.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) There is a Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Program of Educational Excellence
2 Awards in this State that are awarded under this subtitle.

3 (b) The Program shall consist of the following types of awards:

4 (1) Guaranteed Access Grants that are awarded to the neediest students
5 to ensure that 100 percent of educational costs, as defined by regulations adopted by the
6 Commission, are paid; and

7 (2) Educational Assistance Grants that are awarded to low and moderate
8 income students to assist in paying educational costs, as defined by regulations adopted by
9 the Commission.

10 18–303.

11 (a) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, each recipient of a Delegate Howard
12 P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Award shall:

13 (1) Be accepted for admission in the regular undergraduate program at an
14 eligible institution or be enrolled in a 2–year associate degree program in which the course
15 work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible
16 institution;

17 (2) Be a resident of this State;

18 (3) Demonstrate to the Office a definite financial need; and

19 (4) Accept any other conditions attached to the award.

20 (b) Each recipient of a Guaranteed Access Grant shall:

21 (1) Have attained a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or its
22 equivalent at the end of the first semester of the senior year in high school and have
23 completed high school or, failing to do so, on the recommendation of the recipient's high
24 school principal, provide evidence satisfactory to the Office of extenuating circumstances;

25 (2) Begin college within 1 year of completing high school or, failing to do
26 so, provide evidence satisfactory to the Office of extenuating circumstances;

27 (3) Be under the age of 22 years at the time of receiving the first award;

28 (4) Have successfully completed a college preparatory program in high
29 school;

30 (5) Enroll in college as a full–time student;

(6) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, have an annual family income below a poverty index determined by the Commission; and

(7) Satisfy any additional criteria the Commission may establish.

(c) To determine the annual family income eligibility of an applicant for a Guaranteed Access Grant, the Office may not consider an amount received by the applicant as an earned income credit under § 32 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(d) A student in grade 9 or grade 10 who applies and qualifies for a Guaranteed Access Grant on the basis of financial need as established by the Commission shall prequalify for a Guaranteed Access Grant to be used at the time of enrollment in an institution of higher education by agreeing in writing, as a secondary and undergraduate student, to:

(1) Satisfy the attendance policy of the applicable school;

(2) Refrain from substance abuse;

(3) Provide information required by the Commission or the State Board of Education;

(4) Complete and file on a timely basis applications for federal student aid for each year that the student plans to enroll in postsecondary education;

(5) Participate in the College Readiness Outreach Program established in § 18-303.1 of this subtitle until the student graduates from high school and matriculates at an institution of higher education; and

(6) Satisfy any other program requirements set by the Office, the Commission, the State Board of Education, or the State Department of Education.

18-303.2.

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

(2) “ELIGIBLE STUDENT” MEANS A STUDENT WHO:

(I) IS IN THE 12TH GRADE AT A HIGH SCHOOL IN THE STATE;

(II) IS ACADEMICALLY HIGH ACHIEVING; AND

(III) QUALIFIES FOR A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

1 **(3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OUTREACH**
2 **PROGRAM FOR HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS.**

3 **(B) THE COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH**
4 **COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION, COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS, AND INSTITUTIONS**
5 **OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SHALL JOINTLY ADMINISTER THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS**
6 **OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS.**

7 **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ENCOURAGE MORE STUDENTS**
8 **WHO QUALIFY FOR A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT TO ENROLL IN AN INSTITUTION**
9 **OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT IS A GOOD ACADEMIC AND FINANCIAL FIT FOR THE**
10 **STUDENT.**

11 **(D) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO**
12 **EACH ELIGIBLE STUDENT AT NO COST TO THE STUDENT:**

13 **(1) INFORMATION ON COLLEGE ADMISSIONS AND COLLEGE**
14 **APPLICATION FEE WAIVERS; AND**

15 **(2) MATERIAL ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO APPLY TO AT LEAST**
16 **FOUR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION DURING THE STUDENT’S APPLICATION**
17 **PROCESS.**

18 **(E) FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE**
19 **BUDGET.**

20 **(F) (1) THE COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT**
21 **REGULATIONS TO DEFINE A “HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENT”.**

22 **(2) THE COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT ANY**
23 **OTHER REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
25 1, 2015.