

# SENATE BILL 509

F2

(6lr1457)

## ENROLLED BILL

— Education, Energy, and the Environment/Appropriations —

Introduced by ~~Senator Rosapepe~~ **Senators Rosapepe, Attar, and Hester**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

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

1 AN ACT concerning

#### 2 **Higher Education – Workforce Pell Grant Program – Implementation**

3 FOR the purpose of implementing the federal Workforce Pell Grant Program in the State;  
4 requiring the Governor, after consultation with certain entities, to determine  
5 whether to approve certain short-term programs as eligible for Pell Grant funds  
6 subject to certain requirements; requiring a certain registered apprenticeship  
7 program to include certain components in the curriculum; prohibiting institutions of  
8 postsecondary education from using certain funds subject to a certain exclusion;  
9 prohibiting institutions of postsecondary education from operating short-term  
10 programs in a certain manner; and generally relating to the Workforce Pell Grant  
11 Program.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

13 Article – Education

14 Section 10–101(a), (c), and (i)

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#### 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.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.*



1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

3 BY adding to  
4 Article – Education  
5 Section 11–212  
6 Annotated Code of Maryland  
7 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

10 **Article – Education**

11 10–101.

12 (a) In this division the following words have the meanings indicated.

13 (c) “Commission” means the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

14 (i) (1) “Institution of postsecondary education” means a school or other  
15 institution that offers an educational program in the State for individuals who are at least  
16 16 years old and who have graduated from or left elementary or secondary school.

17 (2) “Institution of postsecondary education” does not include:

18 (i) Any adult education, evening high school, or high school  
19 equivalence program conducted by a public school system of the State; or

20 (ii) Any apprenticeship or on–the–job training program subject to  
21 approval by the Apprenticeship and Training Council.

22 **11–212.**

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

25 **(2) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE PELL GRANT**  
26 **PROGRAM BY WHICH PELL GRANTS MAY BE AWARDED TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN**  
27 **A SHORT–TERM PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 83002 OF THE ONE BIG**  
28 **BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT, AS AMENDED.**

29 **(3) “REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP” MEANS AN APPRENTICESHIP**  
30 **PROGRAM THAT IS REGISTERED WITH, AND APPROVED BY, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT**  
31 **OF LABOR OR THE MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COUNCIL.**

1           ~~(3)~~ (4)           “SHORT-TERM PROGRAM” MEANS A PROGRAM OF STUDY  
2 THAT IS:

3                           (I)    AT LEAST 150 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION;

4                           (II)   LESS THAN 600 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION;

5                           (III)   AT LEAST 8 WEEKS;

6                           (IV)   LESS THAN 15 WEEKS; AND

7                           (V)    NOT A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE AS DEFINED IN TITLE  
8 34, SUBTITLE B, CHAPTER VI, PART 600 OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS  
9 IN EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2021.

10           (B)   THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IS TO IMPLEMENT THE WORKFORCE  
11 PELL GRANT PROGRAM IN THE STATE.

12           (C)   (1)   THE GOVERNOR, AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE GOVERNOR’S  
13 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD ~~AND THE COMMISSION~~, SHALL DETERMINE  
14 WHETHER:

15                           ~~(I)~~   ~~A A~~ SHORT-TERM PROGRAM OFFERED AT AN INSTITUTION  
16 OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION ~~AND~~  
17 ~~FEDERAL LAW FOR WORKFORCE PELL GRANTS; AND~~

18                           ~~(II)~~   ~~TO APPROVE THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM AS ELIGIBLE FOR~~  
19 ~~THE PROGRAM.~~

20                           (2)   (1)   SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, AN  
21 INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, REGARDLESS OF HAVING A  
22 PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN THE STATE, MAY NOT:

23                                   1.    DISBURSE PROGRAM FUNDS TO A STUDENT IN THE  
24 STATE; OR

25                                   2.    ADVERTISE, MARKET, OR INFORM STUDENTS IN THE  
26 STATE ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM FUNDS FOR A SHORT-TERM  
27 PROGRAM.

28                                   (II)   SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY  
29 IF AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, REGARDLESS OF HAVING A  
30 PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN THE STATE, OBTAINS:

1                   1.     **THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR UNDER THIS**  
2 **SECTION FOR EACH SHORT-TERM PROGRAM FOR WHICH THE INSTITUTION OF**  
3 **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SEEKS TO DISBURSE PROGRAM FUNDS; AND**

4                   2.     **A DETERMINATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE**  
5 **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THAT THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY**  
6 **EDUCATION MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM FOR EACH SHORT-TERM**  
7 **PROGRAM FOR WHICH THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SEEKS TO**  
8 **DISBURSE PROGRAM FUNDS.**

9                   (3)   **FOR THE APPROVAL TO REMAIN EFFECTIVE, EVERY 2 YEARS AN**  
10 **INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION**  
11 **VERIFYING THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM REMAINS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS**  
12 **SECTION AND THE PROGRAM.**

13                  (4)   **IF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR COURT OF APPROPRIATE**  
14 **JURISDICTION FINDS THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION ENGAGED**  
15 **IN UNFAIR, DECEPTIVE, OR ABUSIVE TRADE PRACTICE UNDER TITLE 13 OF THE**  
16 **COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE RELATED TO THE PROGRAM, THE GOVERNOR SHALL**  
17 **REVOKE AN APPROVAL.**

18                  (D)   (1)   **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A**  
19 **SHORT-TERM PROGRAM SEEKING APPROVAL UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:**

20                         (I)   **PROVIDE AN EDUCATION ALIGNED WITH THE**  
21 **REQUIREMENTS OF:**

22                                 1.   **A ~~HIGH-SKILL~~, HIGH-SKILL OR HIGH-WAGE**  
23 **OCCUPATION AS IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE UNDER THE CARL D. PERKINS CAREER**  
24 **AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT; OR**

25                                 2.   **AN IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPATION;**

26                                 (II)   **MEET THE HIRING REQUIREMENTS OF EMPLOYERS IN THE**  
27 **SECTORS OR OCCUPATIONS IDENTIFIED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH;**

28                                 (III) 1.   **LEAD TO A RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY**  
29 **CREDENTIAL THAT IS STACKABLE AND PORTABLE ACROSS MORE THAN ONE**  
30 **EMPLOYER; OR**

31                                 2.   **PREPARE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE SHORT-TERM**  
32 **PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYMENT IN AN OCCUPATION FOR WHICH THERE IS ONLY ONE**

1 RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL AND THAT AWARDS STUDENTS WITH  
2 THE CREDENTIAL ON COMPLETION OF THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM; AND

3 (IV) PREPARE STUDENTS TO PURSUE ONE OR MORE  
4 CERTIFICATES OR DEGREES AT AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION  
5 BY ENSURING THAT:

6 1. ON COMPLETION OF THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM  
7 AND ENROLLMENT IN A RELATED CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE PROGRAM, A STUDENT  
8 WILL RECEIVE ACADEMIC CREDIT THAT AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY  
9 EDUCATION WILL ACCEPT TOWARD THAT CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE; AND

10 2. THE ACADEMIC CREDIT DESCRIBED UNDER ITEM 1 OF  
11 THIS ITEM WILL BE ACCEPTED TOWARD MEETING THE CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE  
12 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

13 (2) ~~THERE IS A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION THAT THE~~ THE RELATED  
14 TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION COMPONENT OF A ~~FEDERALLY REGISTERED OR~~  
15 ~~STATE REGISTERED~~ REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM OFFERED AT AN  
16 INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
17 ~~PARAGRAPH~~ PARAGRAPHS (1)(I), (II), AND (III) AND (3)(III) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

18 (3) IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPHS (1) AND (2)  
19 OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SEEKING  
20 APPROVAL UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE:

21 (I) DOCUMENTATION THAT, FOR THE 12 MONTHS PRECEDING  
22 THE DATE ON WHICH THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION APPLIED  
23 FOR APPROVAL, THE INSTITUTION OFFERED THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM AND THE  
24 SHORT-TERM PROGRAM MET ALL REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION;

25 (II) DOCUMENTATION THAT THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM HAS A  
26 COMPLETION RATE OF AT LEAST 70% WITHIN 150% OF THE NORMAL TIME FOR  
27 COMPLETION FOR EACH FEDERAL AID AWARD YEAR;

28 (III) DOCUMENTATION THAT THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM HAS A  
29 JOB PLACEMENT RATE OF AT LEAST 70% AFTER 180 DAYS OF COMPLETION FOR  
30 EACH FEDERAL AID AWARD YEAR;

31 (IV) DOCUMENTATION THAT THE TUITION AND FEES FOR THE  
32 SHORT-TERM PROGRAM ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
33 PROGRAM; AND

1 (V) ANY INFORMATION THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE  
 2 DEVELOPMENT BOARD OR THE COMMISSION REQUESTS TO VERIFY COMPLIANCE  
 3 WITH THIS SECTION AND THE PROGRAM.

4 (4) THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, THE  
 5 COMMISSION, OR ANY OTHER AUTHORIZED ENTITY MAY COLLECT AN APPLICATION  
 6 FEE TO COMPLETE THE EVALUATION.

7 (E) A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM APPROVED FOR  
 8 WORKFORCE PELL GRANTS SHALL INCLUDE IN THE CURRICULUM BOTH  
 9 ON-THE-JOB LEARNING AND CLASSROOM LEARNING, INCLUDING ARTIFACTS AND  
 10 DEMONSTRATED PERFORMANCE OR COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT, UNDER THE  
 11 GENERAL SUPERVISION OF THE FACULTY.

12 ~~(E)~~ (F) IN THE OPERATION OF A SHORT-TERM PROGRAM THAT IS  
 13 AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SECTION, AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY  
 14 EDUCATION MAY NOT:

15 (1) PARTNER, CONTRACT, OR AFFILIATE WITH AN ENTITY,  
 16 INSTITUTION, OR ORGANIZATION OTHER THAN A JOINT APPRENTICESHIP  
 17 COMMITTEE REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP, TO OFFER INSTRUCTION FOR THE  
 18 SHORT-TERM PROGRAM THAT IS NOT ACCREDITED BY AN ACCREDITING AGENCY  
 19 RECOGNIZED AND APPROVED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; UNLESS  
 20 THE CONTRACTING ENTITY, INSTITUTION, OR ORGANIZATION:

21 (I) CLEARLY AND PROMINENTLY DISCLOSES THAT THE  
 22 CONTRACTING ENTITY IS A COMPANY THAT IS SEPARATE FROM THE INSTITUTION OF  
 23 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND DESCRIBES ALL OF THE SERVICES THAT THE  
 24 CONTRACTING ENTITY IS CONTRACTED TO PROVIDE FOR THE INSTITUTION IN THE  
 25 FOLLOWING PLACES:

26 1. ON THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY  
 27 EDUCATION'S WEBSITE;

28 2. IN MARKETING MATERIALS ABOUT THE SHORT-TERM  
 29 PROGRAM; AND

30 3. IN ORAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH PROSPECTIVE  
 31 STUDENTS OF THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM; AND

32 ~~(H) IS NOT PAID USING INCENTIVE COMPENSATION OR TUITION~~  
 33 ~~SHARING WITH THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION; AND~~

1 ~~(H)~~ (II) IS NOT INVOLVED WITH THE INSTITUTION OF  
2 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION'S GOVERNANCE, DECISION MAKING OVER THE  
3 DESIGN OR DEVELOPMENT OF COURSE CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTION, SETTING OF  
4 SHORT-TERM PROGRAM ADMISSION STANDARDS, DETERMINING ENROLLMENT  
5 TARGETS, OR CREATION OF NEW SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS;

6 (2) UNLESS A LOAN IS 0% INTEREST, PARTNER OR AFFILIATE WITH  
7 AN ENTITY THAT OFFERS STUDENT LOANS, LINES OF CREDIT, OR INCOME SHARING  
8 AGREEMENTS FOR THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM;

9 (3) CHARGE TUITION AND FEES TO ANY STUDENT ENROLLED IN THE  
10 SHORT-TERM PROGRAM THAT ARE GREATER THAN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF PELL  
11 GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ANY STUDENT IN THAT SHORT-TERM PROGRAM, AS  
12 ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, FOR THE PERIOD OF TIME THAT  
13 THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM IS OFFERED; OR

14 (4) OFFER THE SHORT-TERM PROGRAM USING  
15 NON-CREDIT-BEARING COURSES UNLESS THOSE COURSES WILL TRANSFER TO AT  
16 LEAST ONE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION REGARDLESS OF  
17 PROGRAM COMPLETION.

18 ~~(F) (1) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30 EACH YEAR, FOR EACH SHORT TERM~~  
19 ~~PROGRAM APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY~~  
20 ~~EDUCATION SHALL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION:~~

21 ~~(i) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SHORT TERM~~  
22 ~~PROGRAMS APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION;~~

23 ~~(ii) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED A~~  
24 ~~SHORT TERM PROGRAM APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION;~~

25 ~~(iii) IF THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IS~~  
26 ~~NOT PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN THE STATE, THE NUMBER OF STATE RESIDENTS WHO:~~

27 1. ~~ENROLLED IN THE SHORT TERM PROGRAM; AND~~

28 2. ~~COMPLETED THE SHORT TERM PROGRAM;~~

29 ~~(iv) THE TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE, THE TOTAL TUITION~~  
30 ~~AND FEES, AND THE AVERAGE NET PRICE OF THE SHORT TERM PROGRAM; AND~~

31 ~~(v) DEMOGRAPHIC AND FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION OF~~  
32 ~~STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE SHORT TERM PROGRAM.~~

1           **(G) (1) (I) THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
 2 **SHALL REQUEST AND COLLECT RELEVANT DATA FROM EACH INSTITUTION OF**  
 3 **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OFFERING AN APPROVED SHORT-TERM PROGRAM.**

4                           **(II) THE DATA COLLECTED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS**  
 5 **PARAGRAPH MAY INCLUDE:**

6                           **1. INFORMATION REGARDING EMPLOYER**  
 7 **PARTNERSHIPS;**

8                           **2. JOB PLACEMENT SECTORS; AND**

9                           **3. THE ALIGNMENT OF SHORT-TERM PROGRAM**  
 10 **CURRICULA WITH THE HIRING REQUIREMENTS OF IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTORS.**

11                           **(III) EACH INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**  
 12 **OFFERING AN APPROVED SHORT-TERM PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE THE DATA**  
 13 **REQUESTED BY THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD UNDER**  
 14 **THIS PARAGRAPH IN THE FORM AND MANNER REQUIRED BY THE BOARD.**

15                           **(2) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30 EACH YEAR, THE GOVERNOR'S**  
 16 **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE**  
 17 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**  
 18 **ARTICLE, A SUMMARY OF THE ~~REPORTS REQUIRED~~ INFORMATION COLLECTED**  
 19 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC AND**  
 20 **FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION OF STATE STUDENTS WHO ENROLLED IN**  
 21 **SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

22                           **~~(G)~~ (H) THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND THE**  
 23 **COMMISSION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.**

24                           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
 25 1, 2026.