

*of State Planning shall determine which of said regional planning projects shall qualify for State assistance, and the Commission shall furnish the Secretary with such information as the Secretary may require to make said determinations. On or before August 1, 1972, and on or before August 1 of each year thereafter, the Commission shall furnish to the Secretary its proposed budget for the following fiscal year. Thereafter, the Commission shall promptly notify the Secretary of and obtain his approval for any changes in the proposed budget for regional projects funded under this section. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of Chapter 780 of the Laws of Maryland, (1959), as amended, the Secretary may require an annual audit of the Commission's operations relating to any projects financed in whole or in part by payments to the Commission from the Department of State Planning.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1972.*

Approved May 31, 1972.

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CHAPTER 696

(House Bill 280)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 40A of Article 77A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), title "Higher Education," subtitle "Scholarships," to provide that reimbursement of firemen for tuition for fire service technology courses shall be made at the completion of each academic year of study.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 40A of Article 77A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), title "Higher Education," subtitle "Scholarships," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:*

40A.

Firemen and volunteer firemen shall be entitled to reimbursement by the State for tuition costs of programs of study which are credited toward the requirements of a collegiate degree in "fire service technology" in accredited institutions in Maryland. Reimbursement shall be made one year after successful completion of each [semester] *academic year* of study, and shall only be made upon the condition that the individual applying for such reimbursement is still employed as a fireman in any organized fire department in the State, or is still actively engaged as volunteer fireman in an organized volunteer fire department in the State. Reimbursement requests shall be administered by the State Scholarship Board.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1972.*

Approved May 31, 1972.