

(7) THE OFFICE SHALL GRANT A DEFERMENT FROM THE SERVICE OBLIGATION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION TO:

(I) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS BEEN ASSIGNED MILITARY DUTY OUTSIDE THE STATE; OR

(II) THE SPOUSE OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS BEEN ASSIGNED MILITARY DUTY OUTSIDE THE STATE.

(M) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO RECIPIENTS OF THE WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER SCHOLARSHIP SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (E)(5) OF THIS SECTION.

(2) THE COMMISSION, IN COLLABORATION AND CONSULTATION WITH THE WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER SCHOLARSHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL, SHALL ANNUALLY SELECT ELIGIBLE STUDENTS AND OFFER GRANTS TO STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATE OUTSTANDING POTENTIAL FOR AND WHO PLAN TO PURSUE A CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

(3) IN MAKING WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL ENDEAVOR TO SELECT AWARD RECIPIENTS WHO ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE'S RICH CULTURAL, GEOGRAPHIC, RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND GENDER DIVERSITY.

(4) EACH INDIVIDUAL AWARDED A WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION MUST HAVE INDICATED AND DEMONSTRATED TO THE COMMISSION AND TO THE WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER SCHOLARSHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL A SERIOUS INTENT TO ENTER PUBLIC SERVICE ON THE COMPLETION OF THE STUDENT'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.

(N) (1) THERE IS A WORKFORCE SHORTAGE STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANT FUND IN THE COMMISSION.

(2) THE COMMISSION:

(I) MAY ACCEPT ANY GIFT OR GRANT FROM ANY PERSON OR CORPORATION FOR THE WORKFORCE SHORTAGE STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANT FUND;

(II) SHALL USE ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT RECEIVES FOR A GRANT AWARD FROM THE FUND; AND

(III) SHALL DEPOSIT ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT RECEIVES FOR THE FUND WITH THE STATE TREASURER IN A NONBUDGETED ACCOUNT.

(3) (I) AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR, THE COMMISSION SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORKFORCE SHORTAGE STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANT FUND THAT INCLUDES AN ACCOUNTING OF ALL FINANCIAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES TO AND FROM THE FUND.

(II) THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A COPY OF THE REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS PROVIDED UNDER § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.