

WHEREAS, A Maryland Higher Education Commission survey of over 2,500 employers in all regions of the State indicates that additional workers are needed in these critical areas; and

WHEREAS, These fields of science and technology are among the highest growth industries for the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, An educated, well trained and highly skilled workforce is crucial to economic development and job growth in this State as higher education and business needs are closely linked; and

WHEREAS, It is an important role for the State to ensure that institutions of higher education are producing graduates with skills needed by business; and

WHEREAS, This Science and Technology Scholarship Program intends to help meet the State's economic development needs by rewarding students who work hard in school, demonstrate their ability, and agree to use their training and skills to become valued members of Maryland's workforce; now, therefore,

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

Article - Education

SUBTITLE 20. MARYLAND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS.

18-2001.

IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(1) "REGULAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM" MEANS AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM OF STUDY IN AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AT OR BELOW THE BACCALAUREATE LEVEL LEADING TO EITHER A ~~CERTIFICATE~~, AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE.

(2) (I) "SERVICE OBLIGATION" MEANS EMPLOYMENT IN THE STATE IN AN OCCUPATION DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE ELIGIBLE PROGRAM OF STUDY AS DETERMINED BY THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION.

(II) "SERVICE OBLIGATION" DOES NOT MEAN PAID STUDENT INTERNSHIPS, PAID FELLOWSHIPS, OR VOLUNTEER SERVICE.

(III) "ADMINISTRATION" MEANS THE STATE SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATION AS DEFINED IN ~~SECTION 18-101(B)~~ § 18-101(B) OF THIS TITLE.

18-2002.

(A) THERE IS A PROGRAM OF MARYLAND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS IN THIS STATE THAT ARE AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE. THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ANNUALLY SELECT SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ~~SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS INDIVIDUALS~~ WHO HAVE THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND OFFER A SCHOLARSHIP TO EACH ~~STUDENT INDIVIDUAL~~ STUDENT SELECTED TO BE USED AT