

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 802 (Senator Hollinger)
Budget and Taxation

Nursing Students Enrolled at Community Colleges - Out-of-County Tuition and Fees

This bill requires community colleges to provide in-county tuition rates to State residents who are enrolled in community college nursing programs and are attending community colleges not supported by their home counties. The students must agree to work for two years in a hospital or health institution in the State following completion of the nursing education programs.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. State aid to community colleges is not affected by the bill.

Local Effect: Minimal reduction in community college tuition revenues. The reduction would not affect local funding of community colleges.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A student attending a community college not supported by the student's county of residence must pay the college, in addition to the in-county tuition, a fee equal to the per pupil county share of community college aid. If the student is enrolled in a course of study designated as a statewide program and the course of study is not offered at the local community college, the student pays the in-county tuition rate and the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) pays the out-of-county fee.

A community college nursing student who is not a State resident and who agrees to work in the State for two years as a nurse upon graduation is treated as an in-county student for tuition purposes, and the college receives State aid as if the student is a State resident.

Background: Projections for the next ten years suggest a growing disparity between health care needs and the availability of qualified personnel to meet increasing demands. Nursing is one of the areas with a critical need for more professionals due to an aging nursing population, fewer individuals enrolling in nursing programs, and high turnover rates among registered nurses. Chapter 257 of 2000 established the Statewide Commission on the Crisis in Nursing; the commission issued its report on February 5, 2001. The report included recommendations, such as scholarships and program flexibility, to encourage more higher education students to pursue nursing degrees.

Not including Baltimore City Community College (BCCC), the Governor's proposed fiscal 2002 budget includes \$158.7 million for community colleges through the Senator John A. Cade funding formula. BCCC is a State college with a proposed fiscal 2002 operating budget of \$58.2 million.

Local Fiscal Effect: Only a small number of community college students would be affected by the bill. For example, Prince George's County advises that only two current Prince George's Community College students would qualify for reduced tuition, decreasing college tuition revenues by approximately \$2,600. Assuming the bill would not result in a large number of nursing students attending out-of-county community colleges, any impact on community college tuition revenues would be minimal. The differences between the costs of in-county and out-of-county tuition and fees for full-time students are shown in **Exhibit 1**. Not including BCCC where there is no difference, the cost differences range from a low of \$870 at Chesapeake College to a high of \$2,910 at Howard Community College.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission; Maryland Association of Community Colleges; Maryland Board of Nursing; Calvert, Caroline, Howard, and Prince George's counties; Department of Legislative Services

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Exhibit 1
In-County and Out-of-County Annual Tuition and Fees
For Full-Time Community College Students
Fall 2000 Semester

College	In-County Tuition and Fees	Out-of-County Tuition and Fees	Difference
Allegany	\$2,720	\$5,180	\$2,460
Anne Arundel	1,890	3,540	1,650
Baltimore City	1,983	1,983	-
Baltimore County	2,117	3,707	1,590
Carroll	2,544	4,476	1,932
Cecil	2,010	4,710	2,700
Chesapeake	2,250	3,120	870
Southern Maryland	2,628	5,256	2,628
Frederick	2,717	5,237	2,520
Garrett	2,470	4,510	2,040
Hagerstown	2,280	3,600	1,320
Harford	1,980	3,840	1,860
Howard	2,673	5,583	2,910
Montgomery	2,712	5,520	2,808
Prince George's	2,980	4,930	1,950
Wor-Wic	1,770	4,350	2,580

Source: Maryland Association of Community Colleges