

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 17  
Ways and Means

(Delegates Leopold and Owings)

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Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program - Victims of Terrorism

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This bill expands eligibility for the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program to include the child or spouse of a Maryland resident who was killed as a result of any act of terrorism.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Assuming no major acts of terrorism occur, any increase in Conroy Scholarship applicants and recipients would be minimal and absorbable within existing resources. The bill does not require additional funding for the scholarship program.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The children and spouses of Maryland residents who were killed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks are eligible to receive Conroy Scholarships, but the children and spouses of victims of other terrorist attacks are not. In addition to the children and spouses of 9/11 victims, Conroy Scholarships may also be awarded to: (1) the children of Maryland veterans who were declared to be a prisoners of war (POWs) or who died or were disabled as a result of military service; (2) Maryland POWs; (3) the children and spouses of State or local public safety employees killed in the line of duty; (4) disabled public safety employees; and (5) veterans with service-related disabilities who have exhausted federal veterans' educational benefits. Scholarship recipients must be Maryland residents and must be accepted for admission to or enrolled in regular undergraduate, graduate, or professional programs at Maryland institutions of higher

education or be enrolled in two-year terminal certificate programs. Recipients may receive awards for up to five years of full-time study or eight years of part-time study. An annual award may not be less than \$3,000 or the cost of tuition and fees at the institution the recipient attends, whichever is less. An award may not exceed the cost of tuition and fees for a resident undergraduate at the University System of Maryland institution with the highest annual expenses, not including University of Maryland University College or University of Maryland, Baltimore.

**Background:** Chapter 99 of 2002 added the children and spouses of Maryland residents who died in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks to the eligible recipients of Conroy Scholarships. According to reports at the time, 49 Marylanders lost their lives in the attacks. In the two academic years since scholarship eligibility was expanded, one Conroy Scholarship has been awarded to the child of a victim.

The proposed fiscal 2005 State budget includes \$362,474 for the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program, an increase of \$147,419 or 68.5% over the fiscal 2004 appropriation. According to the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the average award amount for the program is nearly \$4,300.

**State Fiscal Effect:** Assuming that no terrorist attacks affecting a large number of Maryland residents occur, any impact associated with extending scholarship eligibility to children and spouses of all Maryland terrorism victims would be minimal. If another large terrorist attack does occur at some point in the future, the number of applicants and recipients of Conroy Scholarships could increase. Funding for the program is as provided in the annual State budget, so an increase in the number of applicants would not necessarily result in a higher funding level.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 3, 2004  
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