

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 292

(Senator Garagiola, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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**Education - Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship -  
Extension**

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This bill extends the deadline for awarding an initial Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship from June 30, 2016, to June 30, 2020. The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) may continue to renew the scholarships after the June 30, 2020, deadline for individuals who received initial scholarships before the deadline.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program will continue for at least four additional years and will depend on the amount provided in the State budget for the scholarships.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** OSFA may not award an initial Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship after June 30, 2016. The scholarships may, however, be renewed for individuals who received initial awards prior to June 30, 2016.

**Background:** The Veterans Advocacy and Education Act of 2006 (Chapter 290) established the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program to provide postsecondary education scholarships to veterans returning from Iraq and

Afghanistan. Chapter 604 of 2008 extended the termination date for OSFA to award initial scholarships from June 30, 2012, to June 30, 2016.

Scholarships may be awarded for five years of full-time study or eight years of part-time study. Funding is as provided in the State budget. In fiscal 2012, an estimated 120 veterans are receiving scholarships totaling approximately \$550,000 through the program. The Governor's proposed fiscal 2013 State budget includes \$750,000 for the program, and OSFA estimates that about 120 veterans will receive the scholarships.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 7, 2012  
ncs/rhh

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