

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1222  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Haynes, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Ruth M. Kirk Public Social Work Scholarship

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This bill establishes the Ruth M. Kirk Public Social Work Scholarship within the existing Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grants administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC).

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Social workers are already eligible for the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grants; regardless of the type of scholarship, the grant program receives a single appropriation. Therefore, the bill has no fiscal impact.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grants provide financial aid to students who agree to work in Maryland in designated critical shortage fields upon completion of their studies. The program requires grant recipients to work for one year in Maryland in workforce shortage fields for each year that they receive the grants. The following workforce shortage fields must be included in the grant program, unless MHEC decides that the field no longer qualifies as a workforce shortage field: (1) school teachers (the grant to be known as the Sharon Christa McAuliffe Memorial Teacher Scholarship); (2) nurses; (3) child care providers; (4) developmental disabilities, mental health, child welfare, and juvenile justice providers (the grant to be known as the Ida G. and L. Leonard Ruben Scholarship); (5) physical and occupational therapists and

assistants; and (6) public servants (the grant to be known as the William Donald Schaefer Scholarship and the grant to be known as the Parren J. Mitchell Public Service Scholarship). Within the Parren J. Mitchell Public Service Scholarship, MHEC must annually select eligible students and offer grants to students who plan to pursue a career in public service and assist in providing (1) social work services to low-income residents in the State; (2) nursing services in nursing shortage areas in the State; or (3) other services in the public or nonprofit sectors in which there is a shortage of qualified practitioners to low-income or underserved residents or areas of the State.

**Background:** Ruth M. Kirk (February 2, 1930-June 17, 2011) represented the 44<sup>th</sup> Legislative District in the Maryland House of Delegates. She was elected seven times and served a total of 28 years representing west and west central Baltimore. Born Ruth Simmons in Baltimore, Delegate Kirk was the fifth of eight children. In 1970, she took a job at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, working as a teacher's aide, an occupation she continued into her tenure in the General Assembly. As a delegate, Mrs. Kirk served on a number of community organizations focused on city neighborhoods, including the Communities Organized to Improve Life, the Self Help Housing Board, Eastern Star, and on the Board of Directors for Meals on Wheels, among other organizations.

The Governor's proposed fiscal 2015 budget includes \$1.3 million for the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grants.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Human Resources, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 2014  
ncs/rhh

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