

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 372
Appropriations

(Delegate Rogers, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Higher Education – Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship –
Altering Name of Scholarship**

This bill renames the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship to be the Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) can rename the scholarship with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Veterans and active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and members of the reserve or Maryland National Guard who were activated as a result of the conflicts, are eligible for the scholarships, as are their children, stepchildren, and spouses. To qualify, an applicant must also be a Maryland resident and must be accepted for admission or enrolled in a regular undergraduate program at a Maryland institution of higher education or a two-year terminal certificate program in which the course work is eligible for transfer into a baccalaureate program at a Maryland institution of higher education.

A recipient is not required to file for financial aid; however, a recipient who does file for financial aid must file by March 1. A scholarship may supplement, but is not contingent on, any federal education benefits for which a recipient qualifies as a result of an individual's military or military dependent status. Recipients must maintain a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and may hold the scholarship for up to five years of full-time study or eight years of part-time study.

The annual amount of a scholarship may not exceed 50% of the equivalent annual tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board at the University System of Maryland institution with the highest annual expenses for full-time resident undergraduates, excluding the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus and the University of Maryland Global Campus. The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) in MHEC may not award an initial scholarship under the program after June 30, 2030, although existing scholarships may be renewed after that date.

Funding for the scholarship program is as provided in the annual State budget. In addition, senators and delegates may authorize OSFA to award their senatorial and delegate scholarship funds to eligible recipients of the scholarships. There is a Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Fund. MHEC may accept gifts or grants for the fund and must report annually on the status of the fund.

State Expenditures: Although MHEC advises that it incurs approximately \$1,500 in contractual costs to update the Maryland College Aid Processing System to reflect the name change, the Department of Legislative Services advises this cost can likely be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 289 (Senator King, *et al.*) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 2023
rh/clb Third Reader - March 20, 2023

Analysis by: Michael E. Sousane

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510