

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 453 (Senator Colburn)
Rules

Higher Education - Modification of Scholarship Programs

This bill abolishes the Senatorial Scholarship Program and replaces it with the Free State Community Scholarship Program. By April 1 of each year, each senator must have appointed their respective selection committee and have notified the State Scholarship Administration (SSA) that the senator requests the SSA to award Free State Community Scholarships in their district. If a senator does not fulfill those requirements, the funds allocated to that legislative district for that year revert to the Educational Excellence Award Program. The selection committee for each district must consist of not more than nine members, as specified, including not more than four members appointed by the senator who serves that district and one member appointed by the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Scholarships are authorized to be between \$500 and \$2,000.

This bill is effective January 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal general fund expenditure increase for FY 1997 only. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures by the Maryland Higher Education Commission would increase by approximately \$10,000 in fiscal 1997 due to necessary software modifications.

The Governor's proposed 1997 budget allowance for Senatorial Scholarships is \$6,486,000

(\$34,500 x 4 years x 47 senators). Under the provisions of this bill, scholarship expenditures for the Free State Community Scholarship Program would be that same amount since the formula for calculating the expenditure remains the same as under the current statutory provision for the Senatorial Scholarship Program.

It is assumed that staffing responsibilities of each senator can be accommodated with existing resources.

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

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Analysis by: Sue Friedlander
Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 841-3710
(301) 858-3710