

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 382 (Chairman. Ways and Means Committee)
(Departmental - Military)

Appropriations

Maryland National Guard - Tuition Assistance

This departmental bill amends the tuition assistance program for members of the Maryland National Guard as follows:

- the State residency requirement is repealed;
- “related fees” is added to the definition of tuition;
- the provision that tuition assistance may equal 50% of tuition for an undergraduate course is modified to apply to the cost of in-state tuition; and
- the \$500 per semester limitation on tuition assistance for students attending institutions other than community colleges and the \$250 per semester limitation on tuition assistance for community college students are repealed.

The Act takes effect June 1, 1998 and applies to tuition assistance for tuition expenses incurred after January 1, 1998.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill primarily alters the purposes for which existing funds may be used. To the extent it requires procedural changes, the Military Department can handle them with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Military Department has determined that this bill would have minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The Governor's proposed fiscal 1999 budget includes \$225,000 for Military Department tuition assistance. The Military Department generally allocates its entire tuition assistance allowance to Maryland National Guard members who wish to enroll in college courses. This bill would have no impact on the total amount of tuition assistance paid by the Military Department; it simply alters the way in which the Military Department may allocate existing funds.

The University System of Maryland's fiscal 1998 average per-course cost of tuition and fees is \$394 (50% of which is \$197). The fiscal 1998 average per-course cost of tuition and fees for the State's community colleges, excluding Baltimore City Community College, is \$216 (50% of which is \$108). Maryland's public higher educational institutions currently waive 25% or 50% of tuition for Maryland National Guard members. It is uncertain how, if at all, the college enrollment patterns of National Guard members will change as a result of this bill. Because of the tuition waiver policies, a change in enrollment patterns could affect college tuition revenues and expenditures. Any such impact cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

Information Source(s): Military Department, Maryland Independent College and University Association, Maryland Higher Education Commission, University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 1998
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