

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 144 (Senator Frosh)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Higher Education - Science and Technology Scholarships - Eligibility

This bill repeals the requirement that a recipient of a Maryland Science and Technology Scholarship graduate from a secondary school in Maryland.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund expenditures. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: The Maryland Science and Technology Scholarship Program was created by Chapters 566 and 567, Laws of Maryland 1998. Under the program, a scholarship is to be awarded to each student who meets the following qualifications: (1) has graduated from a Maryland secondary school; (2) has earned a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in high school; (3) is a Maryland resident; (4) plans to enroll as a full-time student at a Maryland college or community college; (5) intends to pursue an eligible academic program in the field of computer science, engineering, or technology as determined by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC); (6) agrees to either work in the State after graduation for 1 year for each year that the scholarship was awarded or repay the funds received plus interest; and (7) satisfies any other criteria that MHEC may establish. The scholarship amount is \$3,000 per year for students enrolled in 4-year institutions and \$1,000 per year for community college students.

The Governor's proposed fiscal 2000 budget includes \$5.12 million in general funds for the program, which comprises awards for an estimated 2,236 students and administrative costs. Annual costs for the program are projected to approach \$10 million by fiscal 2004.

State Expenditures: This bill would allow Maryland residents who attend out-of-state high schools (day or boarding) to be eligible for Maryland Science and Technology Scholarships. The number of such students is not readily available, but is believed to be minimal. Therefore, the costs for the program would not be significantly affected by adding these students to the pool of eligible scholarship recipients.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 1, 1999

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