

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 310 (Senator Hogan. *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Higher Education - Maryland Science and Technology Scholarships - Requirements

This bill expands the eligibility for the Maryland Science and Technology Scholarship Program to individuals who have earned a high school diploma within the last eight years and have never been enrolled at a Maryland higher education institution. The State Scholarship Administration must allocate scholarship funds to students who are currently secondary school students, and to the extent that funds are still available, offer scholarships to secondary school graduates with high school diplomas who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for the program.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not significantly impact State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under the Maryland Science and Technology Scholarship Program, awards are made to secondary school students who meet the following qualifications:

- graduated from a Maryland secondary school;
- earned a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in high school;
- is a Maryland resident and was a Maryland resident at the time of graduating from

- secondary school;
- enrolls as a full-time student at a Maryland college or community college within two years of completing high school (or provides evidence satisfactory to the State Scholarship Administration of extenuating circumstances);
- intends to pursue an eligible program in the fields established as critical shortage areas by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC); and
- agrees either to work in the State within one year after completion of undergraduate studies for one year for each year that the scholarship was awarded or to repay the funds received plus interest.

The scholarship award is \$3,000 for a student enrolled at a four-year institution of higher education and \$1,000 for a student enrolled at a two-year institution. A student may receive renewal awards in subsequent years if the student continues to meet eligibility requirements.

Background: The Maryland Science and Technology Scholarship Program was created in 1998 to assist the State in meeting the need for highly skilled workers in shortage areas. Fiscal 2000 is the first year of operation for the program. The Governor's proposed fiscal 2001 budget contains \$4,509,502 in general funds for the program for an estimated 1,555 students.

State Fiscal Effect: The bill would expand the eligibility pool for the Maryland Science and Technology Program, but is not expected to affect program funding levels. MHEC could handle the bill's changes using existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2000
cm/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 28, 2000

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