

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 231 (Chairman, Ways and Means Committee)  
(Departmental - Higher Education Commission)

Ways and Means

---

**Higher Education - Student Financial Assistance and Scholarships**

---

This departmental bill makes the following changes to provisions relating to student financial assistance and scholarships:

- The requirement that a recipient of a Guaranteed Access Grant have graduated from a secondary school in Maryland is repealed. With this change, a recipient of a Guaranteed Access Grant must be a Maryland resident and must have been a Maryland resident at the time of graduating from secondary school, but may have graduated from a secondary school outside of Maryland.
- A recipient of an Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship is required to be a Maryland resident and be enrolled in a certificate or degree program.
- Maryland residency is required as a condition of eligibility for tuition assistance for career or voluntary fire fighter, ambulance, or rescue squad members.
- The requirement that a recipient of an Economic Development Student Assistance Grant for physical and occupational therapists and assistants perform the service obligation in a school or hospital setting is repealed.
- The requirement that a recipient of a HOPE Scholarship have graduated from a secondary school in Maryland is repealed. Under this change, a recipient must be a Maryland resident and must have been a Maryland resident at the time of graduating from secondary school, but the recipient may have graduated from a secondary school outside of Maryland.
- A recipient of an Educational Excellence Award may also receive a Maryland Teacher Scholarship award or a Maryland HOPE Scholarship award. This

provision may be applied retroactively.

---

## Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The changes are technical in nature and would not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill).

---

## Analysis

### Current Law:

- A recipient of a Guaranteed Access Grant must have graduated from a secondary school in Maryland.
- A recipient of an Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship is not required to be a Maryland resident or be enrolled in a certificate or degree program.
- Maryland residency is not required as a condition of eligibility for tuition assistance for career or voluntary fire fighter, ambulance, or rescue squad members.
- A recipient of an Economic Development Student Assistance Grant for physical and occupational therapists and assistants must perform the service obligation in a school or hospital setting.
- A recipient of a HOPE Scholarship must have graduated from a secondary school in Maryland.
- A recipient of an Educational Excellence Award may not hold any other scholarship award except for an Economic Development Student Assistance grant, a Distinguished Scholar award, or a Maryland Science and Technology Scholarship award.

**Background:** Guaranteed Access Grants are made as part of the Educational Excellence Award Program to students whose family income is below a designated poverty index and

who meet certain academic requirements. The Educational Excellence Program is the State's largest financial aid program, and also includes Educational Assistance Grants, which are awarded to low and moderate income students.

The Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program provides scholarships to children and spouses of certain deceased and disabled armed services members and public safety workers.

MHEC administers a program whereby professional or volunteer firemen and rescue squad personnel in the State may receive reimbursement of tuition costs required for courses leading to a degree in fire service technology or emergency medical technology at an accredited Maryland institution.

The Economic Development Student Assistance Grant Program provides financial assistance to students who pledge to work in fields of geographic or critical shortage in the State upon completion of their studies. MHEC advises that it has become extremely difficult for physical and occupational therapists and assistants to find a job in a school or hospital setting in order to fulfill their service requirement.

The HOPE Scholarship Program provides awards to students pursuing careers in fields of economic priority to the State.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The bill's changes would not affect funding levels for student financial aid or scholarship programs.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Chapter 141 of 1999 allows recipients of the Maryland Science and Technology Scholarship to have graduated from a high school outside Maryland as long as the recipient is a Maryland resident and was a Maryland resident at the time of graduating from high school.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 9, 2000  
drg/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 16, 2000

---

Analysis by: Claire E. Rooney

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510