

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

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 707 (Delegate Goldwater, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

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**Higher Education - Maryland Science-Technology Corps**

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This bill establishes a scholarship program for students enrolled in a community college science and technology program for the purpose of being trained as an information systems technician to work in the State's public schools. The State Scholarship Administration is responsible for awarding the scholarships. The Governor is required to include funds in the State budget for the program. The State Scholarship Administration must send each Senator and Delegate a list of individuals in each legislative district to whom a Maryland Science-Technology Corps Scholarship was awarded.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2000.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Assuming 250 scholarships are awarded annually and the award is renewed for an additional year, State general fund expenditures would increase by \$570,000 in FY 2001 and \$1.1 million beginning in FY 2002.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** This bill establishes a Maryland Science-Technology Corps and a scholarship program for students enrolled in a community college science and technology program. The student must (1) intend to enroll as a full-time student in a community college science and technology program; (2) graduate from a secondary school; (3) be a Maryland

resident; (4) be accepted for admission in a science and technology program at a State community college; and (5) agree to the conditions for the scholarship. The scholarship award includes the full tuition for the community college science and technology program and any mandatory fees and can be renewed for one additional year upon meeting certain conditions.

As a condition of eligibility, students must sign an agreement to commence employment in a State public school within one year of completing the community college program or within three years if the student proceeds to enroll full-time in an institution of higher education to obtain a bachelor's degree. In addition, the student must remain employed by the school system for one year for each year that the scholarship was awarded. The student is required to repay the scholarship with interest for failing to satisfy the community college's degree requirements or perform the service obligation in the public schools.

**Current Law:** As part of the HOPE Scholarships Program, the State will award about 1,555 Science and Technology Scholarships in fiscal 2001. These merit-based scholarships are for full-time students planning to pursue an undergraduate degree in selected fields of science and technology. Qualified applicants must be high school seniors. The scholarship amount is \$1,000 per year for community college students and \$3,000 per year for students at a four-year institution.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The average tuition and fees for local community colleges in Maryland totals \$2,278. Assuming 250 scholarships are awarded annually and the award is renewed for an additional year, State general fund expenditures would increase by \$570,000 in fiscal 2001 and \$1.1 million beginning in fiscal 2002.

The actual number of students applying for and awarded a Maryland Science-Technology Corps Scholarship would depend in part upon the availability and salary of employment positions within Maryland's public schools. There are 1,355 public schools in Maryland. If each public school hired only one scholarship recipient and the recipient remained employed by the local school system for several years, the potential demand for scholarship recipients would be reduced in subsequent years.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission advises that one program manager and one office assistant at a cost of \$110,000 would be required to administer the program. Given the level of expected participation, the Department of Legislative Services advises that existing staff within the State Scholarship Administration should be able to perform the functions of the bill.

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### **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 23, 2000

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