

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 458 (Delegate Heller)

Ways and Means

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**Educational Excellence Award Program - Guaranteed Access Grants**

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This bill creates an exception to the eligibility requirements for receipt of a Guaranteed Access Grant by providing that the requirement that an applicant have an annual family income below a poverty index determined by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) does not apply to an applicant who was born as one of a multiple birth of four or more children.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill would not have a material impact on State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Under the Guaranteed Access Program, grants are available to students who: (1) have completed a college preparatory or tech-prep program at a Maryland high school; (2) have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5; and (3) have an annual family income below 130% of the federal poverty level.

**Background:** The Guaranteed Access Program was instituted in 1992 to ensure that Maryland's neediest students have an opportunity to pursue higher education. The Guaranteed Access Program is part of the Educational Excellence Award Program, which is not an entitlement program.

**State Fiscal Effect:** As a result of the bill, a limited number of additional students could qualify for a Guaranteed Access Grant. Although the bill could alter the distribution of

available funds to eligible applicants, it is expected that the bill would not alter funding levels for the program. The Governor's proposed fiscal 2001 budget includes \$33,868,465 in general funds and \$465,839 in federal funds for the Educational Excellence Award Program.

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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 22, 2000  
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