

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 1067 (Delegates Guns and Conroy)

Ways and Means

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Higher Education - Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program – Eligibility**

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This bill expands the eligibility of the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program to include veterans who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and who suffered a service-related disability of 50% or greater and are no longer eligible for federal veterans' educational benefits. The number of the memorial scholarships that may be awarded to these veterans is limited to 15 per year.

The bill is effective July 1, 2001.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by up to \$54,800 annually beginning in FY 2002. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	54,800	54,800	54,800	54,800	54,800
Net Effect	(\$54,800)	(\$54,800)	(\$54,800)	(\$54,800)	(\$54,800)

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** Scholarships from the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program may be awarded to: (1) the son or daughter of a Maryland veteran who was declared to be a prisoner of war (POW) or who died or was disabled as a result of military service; (2) a Maryland POW; (3) the son, daughter, or surviving spouse of a State or local public safety employee killed in the line of duty; or (4) a disabled public safety employee. A scholarship recipient must be a Maryland resident and must be accepted for admission to or enrolled in a regular undergraduate, graduate, or professional program at a Maryland institution of higher education or be enrolled in a two-year terminal certificate program. A scholarship recipient may receive an award for up to five years of full-time study or eight years of part-time study. An annual award may not exceed the cost of tuition and fees for a resident undergraduate at the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Background:** The Governor's fiscal 2002 budget proposal includes \$223,500 for the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program. In fiscal 2001, an estimated 70 scholarships totaling \$255,900 were awarded under the program.

**State Expenditures:** The average award under the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program was \$3,656 in fiscal 2001. Assuming the maximum of 15 scholarships would be awarded annually to disabled veterans and the average award remains relatively stable, general fund expenditures would increase by \$54,840 annually beginning in fiscal 2002.

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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, 2001  
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