

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 68 (Chairman, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee)
(Departmental – University System of Maryland)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Appropriations

Higher Education - Salisbury State University - Renaming

This departmental bill changes the name of Salisbury State University to Salisbury University.

The bill is effective July 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Although there will be some expenses incurred for new campus signs, stationery, letterhead, and forms, the costs can be met with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The University System of Maryland has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: The university is known as Salisbury State University (SSU).

Background: SSU opened in September 1925 as a two-year college. Ten years later, it was a four-year college authorized to grant Bachelor of Science degrees. Over the next 25 years, the academic programs at SSU expanded to include both arts and sciences, and in 1962, the college began offering graduate programs. In 1988, the General Assembly approved a name change from Salisbury State College to Salisbury State University.

The University System of Maryland (USM) reports that the word “State” in a university’s title connotes a focus on the education of teachers, and education is just one of the four schools at SSU. USM also notes that removing “State” from the name may increase private contributions to the university. SSU is planning to update university signs and would like the name change to coincide with that process.

Chapter 114 of 1997 made the same change to the former Towson State University, dropping “State” from its title.

State Expenditures: USM advises that the bill would have only a minimal fiscal impact because: (1) the construction of new signs that could display the new name is already underway; (2) university departments will have 20 months to exhaust existing stationery and letterhead; and (3) forms are ordered as needed, reducing the number that will need to be replaced. USM can handle the costs with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – January 22, 2001
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