

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 316

(Delegate Hixson)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

**Higher Education - Maryland Science and Technology Scholarship, Maryland
Teacher Scholarship, and Maryland HOPE Scholarship - Eligibility**

This bill alters the grade point average calculation that is used to determine eligibility for a HOPE scholarship. An individual qualifies for an initial award under the HOPE Science and Technology Scholarship Program, the HOPE Teacher Scholarship Program, or the general HOPE Scholarship Program, if he or she has an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent after completion of the first semester of his or her high school senior year. The alteration makes the grade point average calculation consistent for all three of these programs.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Changing the grade point average calculation for HOPE scholarships would not materially affect the number of awards or the average award amount.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: To qualify for an initial HOPE Scholarship, an individual must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in core curriculum courses. The grade point average used to determine eligibility for the HOPE Teacher Scholarship Program is calculated at the time of the application. The grade point average used to determine

eligibility for the HOPE Science and Technology Scholarship Program and the Maryland HOPE Scholarship Program is calculated after the first semester of an applicant's high school senior year.

To be eligible for any of these scholarships, an applicant must be a Maryland resident, must attend an institution of higher education in the State, and must agree to work in the State for one year for each year that the scholarship is received.

Background: The HOPE scholarship program began in the 1999-2000 school year with scholarships awarded under the HOPE Science and Technology Scholarship Program and the HOPE Teacher Scholarship Program. Beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, awards were also granted under the general HOPE Scholarship Program. In the 2001-2002 academic year, HOPE Transfer Scholarships have been awarded for the first time to students transferring from two-year colleges to four-year universities. Projected numbers of HOPE scholarship recipients for the 2001-2002 academic year are shown in **Exhibit 1**. The proposed fiscal 2003 State budget includes a total of \$26.4 million for all of the HOPE scholarship programs.

Exhibit 1
Projected HOPE Scholarship Recipients
2001-2002 Academic Year

<u>Scholarship Program</u>	<u>Recipients</u>	<u>Avg. Award</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
HOPE Science and Technology	1,745	\$2,800	\$4,886,000
HOPE Teacher	2,520	4,700	11,844,000
HOPE Scholarship	407	2,457	999,999
HOPE Transfer	<u>357</u>	<u>2,878</u>	<u>1,027,446</u>
Total	5,029	\$3,730	\$18,757,445

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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lsc/jr

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