

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 16

(Senator Baker)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Higher Education - Maryland Teacher Scholarships - Eligibility

This bill allows the recipient of a Maryland Teacher Scholarship to also receive a Senatorial Scholarship or a Delegate Scholarship.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Allowing recipients of Maryland Teacher Scholarships to receive additional scholarships would not materially affect the number or amount of scholarship awards. The State Scholarship Administration could continue to track and award scholarships with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: With the exception of an Educational Excellence Award or a Distinguished Scholar Award, the recipient of a Maryland Teacher Scholarship may not receive other State scholarships. To qualify for a Maryland Teacher Scholarship, a recipient must be a Maryland resident and must have a grade point average of at least 3.0. An award recipient must agree to work full-time as a teacher in a Maryland public elementary or secondary school upon completion of the undergraduate or graduate degree, or pay back the awarded scholarship funds plus interest. Awards are \$2,000 for full-time undergraduate students attending two-year institutions, \$5,000 for full-time undergraduate or graduate students attending four-year institutions, and \$2,500 for part-

time graduate students attending four-year institutions. An award may be renewed up to three times if a recipient maintains the eligibility criteria.

Background: The *Maryland Teacher Staffing Report, 2001 - 2003* notes that the State Board of Education projects a shortage of certified teachers for all 24 of Maryland's school systems. The board also acknowledges a shortage of male teachers and minority teachers and recognized several fields -- including technology education, computer science, mathematics, science, and special education -- as critical shortage areas. The Maryland Teacher Scholarship Program is one of the programs the State has implemented to combat this shortage. Fiscal 2002 is the third year of the program, and more than 5,000 awards totaling approximately \$22 million have been accepted. Other State incentive programs designed to attract and retain more qualified teachers include a low-interest mortgage program for teachers, stipends for teachers who earn certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or who agree to teach in challenging schools, signing bonuses for new teachers who graduated in the top 10% of their class, tuition tax credits for teachers who attend graduate school, exemptions from earnings limitations for retired teachers reemployed in schools, and teacher mentoring programs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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