

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 897

(Senators Bromwell and Hooper)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Education - High School Diplomas - World War II Veterans

This emergency bill allows an individual honorably discharged from military service to apply to a local board of education to obtain a high school diploma if the individual withdrew from a regular full-time public or private school during the individual's junior year in high school to enlist in the armed forces during World War II. The individual can apply to the local board of education in the county where the individual resides or where the school from which the individual withdrew was located.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local school systems can provide diplomas to World War II veterans with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Legislation was enacted in 2000 that enables a World War II veteran to obtain a high school diploma if the individual withdrew from a regular full-time public or private school during the individual's senior year in high school to enlist in the armed forces. Prior to this legislation, a local school system could issue an honorary diploma to veterans. The Maryland State Department of Education has received fewer than 25 requests for diplomas from eligible World War II veterans.

Background: Approximately 88,000 World War II veterans reside in Maryland. World War II veterans account for 18% of the total number of veterans residing in Maryland. The median age of World War II veterans is projected to be 78. Most World War II veterans (75%) are projected to be between the ages of 75 and 84. About 10% are projected to be 85 or older.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Sources: Maryland State Department of Education, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Legislative Services

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