

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 568
Ways and Means

(Delegate Morhaim)

Higher Education - Senatorial and Delegate Scholarship Programs

This bill allows a State legislator to award all or a portion of the funds authorized for the legislator's Senatorial or Delegate scholarships to a public institution of higher education or an academic program in a public institution of higher education. An institution that receives funding must award scholarships to students enrolled in the institution or academic program in accordance with criteria established for the Senatorial and Delegate scholarships. The institution must submit a list of individuals who received awards in this manner to the Office of Student Financial Assistance by September 1 of each year.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Office of Student Financial Assistance could manage the additional administrative responsibilities with existing resources. The bill would not impact overall State funding for Senatorial and Delegate scholarships.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each Senatorial scholarship is distributed by a State Senator or, at the request of the Senator, the Office of Student Financial Assistance. To be eligible for an award, an applicant must, at the time of the initial application, be a resident of the legislative district represented by the Senator from whom the applicant is requesting a scholarship. An applicant must also be accepted for admission at an institution of

postsecondary education and demonstrate a financial need, as defined by the Senator awarding the scholarship. Annual award amounts range from \$400 to \$2,000 and may be renewed up to three times for full-time students or up to eight times for part-time students. In total, an individual may not receive more than \$8,000 in Senatorial scholarship awards.

Each Delegate scholarship is distributed by a State Delegate or, at the request of the Delegate, the Office of Student Financial Assistance. Delegates may award scholarships on any basis they consider appropriate. During each term in office, a delegate may award the equivalent of four full-time four-year scholarships. Each scholarship pays the tuition and mandatory fees at any eligible institution, although the amount of the scholarship may not exceed the equivalent annual tuition and fees at the University System of Maryland institution with the highest annual cost for a full-time resident undergraduate.

Background: The proposed fiscal 2004 State budget includes \$6.5 million for Senatorial scholarships and \$3.3 million for Delegate scholarships. Legislative scholarships were provided to approximately 8,600 students in fiscal 2002 and are being provided to an estimated 8,400 students in fiscal 2003.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510