

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1510  
 Appropriations

(Delegate Moe, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

**Higher Education - Firefighters and Ambulance and Rescue Squadmen - Tuition Assistance**

This bill extends to nonresidents of Maryland the tuition reimbursement program for career and volunteer firefighters and ambulance and rescue squad members working in Maryland. In addition, the bill requires a firefighter or ambulance or rescue squad member who receives tuition reimbursement to work for a minimum of 20 hours per week on average to be reimbursed.

The bill is effective July 1, 2004.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by approximately \$23,400 in FY 2005 to fund tuition assistance for an estimated 10 additional individuals. Future year expenditures assume a constant number of additional award recipients and a constant award amount. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400
Net Effect	(\$23,400)	(\$23,400)	(\$23,400)	(\$23,400)	(\$23,400)

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** Any career or volunteer firefighter or ambulance or rescue squad member who is a resident of Maryland receives full and complete reimbursement for courses credited toward a degree in fire service technology or emergency medical technology. The reimbursement, however, may not exceed tuition and mandatory fee costs at the University System of Maryland institution with the highest annual expenses for full-time resident undergraduate students, not including the University of Maryland University College and the University of Maryland, Baltimore. A reimbursement is paid one year after successful completion of each academic year. A payment may only be made if the applicant is still employed or actively engaged as a career firefighter or ambulance or rescue squad member in Maryland.

**Background:** The proposed fiscal 2005 State budget includes \$344,311 for tuition reimbursements for firefighters and ambulance and rescue squad members, the same amount that is in the working appropriation for fiscal 2004. This amount is funding tuition reimbursements for nearly 150 individuals.

**State Expenditures:** The Maryland Higher Education Commission advises that 10 applicants were denied tuition reimbursements in fiscal 2004 because they did not reside in Maryland. The average fiscal 2004 award amount under the program was \$2,344. Assuming that 10 additional applicants per year qualify for the awards, general fund expenditures would increase by approximately \$23,440 annually. The increase could be offset to some extent by a reduction in payments to firefighters and ambulance and rescue squad members who do not work an average of 20 hours per week.

---

## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - April 5, 2004  
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - April 12, 2004

---

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

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

