

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 474  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Burns, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Education - High School Diploma - World War II, Korean Conflict, and Vietnam  
Conflict Veterans

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This 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 to enlist in the armed forces during the Vietnam Conflict. The individual may 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.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Local school systems can provide diplomas to veterans with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Veterans may obtain a high school diploma if the individual withdrew from a regular full-time public or private school to enlist in the U.S. armed forces during World War II or the Korean Conflict.

**Background:** At the 2000 session, the General Assembly approved legislation that enabled 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. At the 2002 session, the General

Assembly extended this provision to cover honorably discharged veterans from the Korean Conflict. At the 2003 session, the General Assembly repealed the provision requiring the honorably discharged veteran to be a senior in high school at the time of withdrawing from school.

### *Vietnam War Veterans*

The Vietnam Conflict began in 1959 and ended in 1975. During this period, over 5,000 Maryland high school students withdrew from school for military reasons. The attached exhibit shows the number of students by year and jurisdiction. It is not known how many of these individuals completed their high school education once their military service ended.

Approximately 152,000 Vietnam War veterans reside in Maryland. Based on the 2001 Veteran Census, the median age of Vietnam War veterans was projected to be 52 that year. Most Vietnam War veterans (71%) were projected to be 50 to 59 years old. About 12% were projected to be 60 or older, and 17% were projected to be 40 to 49 years old. About 5% of male veterans 40 to 54 years old (mostly Vietnam War veterans) did not have a high school diploma, while 60.5% had at least some college education and 24.6% had at least a Bachelor's degree.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill was introduced at the 2003 session as HB 680. The bill received a favorable with amendments report by the House Ways and Means Committee and was passed by the full House. The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committee amended the bill and it was approved by the full Senate. No agreement was reached between the two houses.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 3, 2004  
ncs/ljm

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**Public School Withdrawals for Military Reason Public School  
Maryland Public Secondary Schools**

<u>County</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1960-75</u>
Allegany	15	N/A	5	9	15	12	6	8	9	9	6	3	11	9	9	10	136
Anne Arundel	25	N/A	32	30	36	34	23	20	25	31	16	35	25	35	36	30	433
Baltimore City	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	159	154	149	120	121	100	132	109	122	1,166
Baltimore	97	N/A	84	58	100	107	74	55	52	84	55	58	54	49	51	66	1,044
Calvert	0	N/A	0	2	0	2	2	1	0	3	1	1	3	2	10	3	30
Caroline	4	N/A	4	1	1	1	0	3	1	1	3	8	4	4	2	1	38
Carroll	4	N/A	4	1	6	2	2	1	4	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	37
Cecil	6	N/A	3	8	44	10	6	0	2	2	3	3	1	4	1	0	93
Charles	0	N/A	1	4	4	9	5	7	4	4	2	7	10	10	6	4	77
Dorchester	0	N/A	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	9
Frederick	5	N/A	3	2	1	7	3	0	3	10	7	2	5	4	3	1	56
Garrett	2	N/A	1	4	2	3	3	2	2	1	3	1	0	0	3	1	28
Harford	13	N/A	7	8	1	4	7	5	4	6	5	10	16	14	12	12	124
Howard	7	N/A	3	15	3	4	7	7	2	3	4	4	6	8	4	3	80
Kent	1	N/A	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	8	0	20
Montgomery	42	N/A	30	39	52	38	37	28	36	45	48	27	44	28	33	29	556
Prince George's	55	N/A	20	24	61	68	37	52	46	63	64	73	92	83	60	63	861
Queen Anne's	2	N/A	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	3	1	2	1	0	1	15
St. Mary's	4	N/A	2	5	5	4	5	1	4	3	5	2	9	9	5	2	65
Somerset	0	N/A	0	3	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	4	4	4	4	0	27
Talbot	1	N/A	1	1	1	2	2	5	3	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	22
Washington	0	N/A	0	4	6	2	4	3	3	6	3	9	1	4	7	4	56
Wicomico	10	N/A	2	3	5	12	8	7	4	4	3	19	8	1	2	2	90
Worcester	14	N/A	3	9	3	2	4	2	0	5	2	1	2	3	0	1	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>5,114</b>

Source: *Maryland State Department of Education Annual Report*, 1960 and 1962 through 1975.