

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

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

House Bill 1314  
Appropriations

(Delegate Heller, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Higher Education - National Guard Student**

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This bill requires a public institution of higher education to allow a student who is in the National Guard and whose unit is activated and deployed to withdraw from classes without negative consequences for the student's academic standing. The institution must also try to work with the student to complete the course requirements by either: (1) giving the student a grade of incomplete and working with the student and the student's instructor on a program of independent study; or (2) transferring the student to an online course.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The University System of Maryland (USM) has a similar policy and the bill would not materially affect USM finances. St. Mary's College of Maryland, Morgan State University, and Baltimore City Community College could meet the bill's requirements with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** Community colleges could meet the bill's requirements with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Policies regarding students who are called to active duty are left to the discretion of the governing boards of institutions of higher education.

The Board of Regents of USM has a policy that requires presidents of constituent institutions to assist students called to active duty by minimizing the negative impacts normally applicable to students who withdraw early. USM institutions must allow for full or partial refunds of tuition and fees or allow the student to take an incomplete grade for a course and extend the time permitted to complete the course. A student called to active duty is also entitled to a prorated refund of room and board fees.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** St. Mary's College, University System of Maryland, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 2004  
ncs/hlb Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 4, 2004

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