

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

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

House Bill 77

(Delegate Boschert)

Ways and Means

Finance

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**Governor's Workforce Investment Board - Higher Education Assistance  
Program**

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This bill requires the Governor's Workforce Investment Board to develop a higher education assistance program. The program is to assist businesses and students in entering into higher education assistance contracts. A higher education assistance contract is defined as a contract where in exchange for a business paying a student's tuition and fees at an institution of higher education, the student agrees to work for the employer within one year of graduation for a period of time equal to one year for every year of employer-provided educational assistance.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2004.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill's requirements could be absorbed within existing budgeted resources at the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Governor's Workforce Investment Board does not currently have a higher education assistance program. The board's purpose is to improve the quality of

the Maryland workforce by promoting increased employment, job retention, earnings, and occupational skills.

**Background:** Various public and private programs offer tuition assistance in exchange for service obligations. The State offers several programs in the health services and other fields that offer scholarships and/or loan forgiveness grants in exchange for a commitment to work in the State or a particular region of the State.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Comptroller's Office; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Society of Human Resource Management; U.S. Department of Labor; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 2004  
ncs/mdr Revised - House Third Reader - March 31, 2004

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Analysis by: Robert J. Rehrmann

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