

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Revised

House Bill 1438

(Delegate McHale)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Higher Education - Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program -
Eligibility**

This bill expands eligibility for the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program by allowing nonresidents of Maryland who graduate from Maryland high schools in 2004 to receive awards. To qualify, a nonresident must be a student at a Maryland high school at the time of application or must have graduated from a Maryland high school within three months of application.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2004 and terminates June 30, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill could increase the number of eligible scholarship applicants slightly, but it would not materially affect the budget for the program.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Only Maryland residents are eligible for Conroy Scholarships. The scholarships may be awarded to: (1) the children of Maryland veterans who were declared to be a prisoners of war (POWs) or who died or were disabled as a result of military service; (2) Maryland POWs; (3) the children and spouses of State or local public safety employees killed in the line of duty; (4) disabled public safety employees;

(5) veterans with service-related disabilities who have exhausted federal veterans' educational benefits; and (6) the children or spouses of victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Scholarship recipients must be accepted for admission to or enrolled in regular undergraduate, graduate, or professional programs at Maryland institutions of higher education or be enrolled in two-year terminal certificate programs.

Recipients may receive awards for up to five years of full-time study or eight years of part-time study. An annual award may not be less than \$3,000 or the cost of tuition and fees at the institution the recipient attends, whichever is less. An award may not exceed the cost of tuition and fees for a resident undergraduate at the University System of Maryland institution with the highest annual expenses, not including University of Maryland University College or University of Maryland, Baltimore.

State Fiscal Effect: The fiscal 2005 State budget includes \$362,474 for the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program, an increase of \$147,419 or 68.5% over the fiscal 2004 appropriation. The Maryland Higher Education Commission advises that any additional eligible applicants that result from this legislation could be supported with the fiscal 2005 funds provided for the program.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2004
ncs/hlb Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 5, 2004

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