

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1169  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Eckardt)

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Senatorial and House of Delegates Scholarships – Part-Time Students – Awards

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This bill lowers from six to three the number of semester hours a student must take in order to qualify for a Senatorial or Delegate scholarship. The bill also repeals the limit on the number of part-time Delegate Scholarships a Delegate may award.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill could increase the number of Senatorial and Delegate scholarship recipients, but it would not impact the total scholarship amounts awarded through the programs. The Maryland Higher Education Commission could absorb the additional workload without added costs.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Senatorial and Delegate scholarships may be awarded to part-time students who carry at least six hours of courses each semester. Each Senator may award a total of \$138,000 in senatorial scholarships per year through individual awards that range from \$400 to \$2,000 per year. During each term, a Delegate may award the equivalent of four full-time Delegate Scholarships. Two part-time Delegate Scholarships are equal to a full-time scholarship. Delegate Scholarships pay the tuition and mandatory fees at institutions of higher education in Maryland.

**Background:** The proposed fiscal 2005 State budget includes \$6.5 million for Senatorial Scholarships, enough for each Senator to distribute \$138,000 in scholarship awards. The budget includes \$4.4 million for Delegate Scholarships, enough for each Delegate to distribute approximately \$31,000 in awards. Scholarships under both programs are provided to students living in the districts of the Senators and Delegates making the awards. Awarding funds through these programs is intended to ensure that students in all parts of the State have access to financial aid for higher education.

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### **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  
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