

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1309
Appropriations

(Delegate Burns)

Waiver of Tuition and Fees - Purple Heart Recipients

This bill exempts Purple Heart recipients from tuition and fees at four-year public institutions of higher education. A Purple Heart recipient must be an in-state undergraduate student to qualify, and the Department of Veterans Affairs must provide verification that the student received a Purple Heart. The tuition exemption applies for five years following initial enrollment in an undergraduate program at a public institution or until the Purple Heart recipient earns a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Higher education tuition and fee revenues would decrease beginning in FY 2005 due to the tuition and fee exemption for Purple Heart recipients. Expenditures would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Policies for the waiver of tuition and fees are generally set by the governing boards of each four-year public institution of higher education. There are, however, several exemptions that have been codified in State law. Public institutions must offer tuition waivers to the faculty and employees of public institutions of higher education in Maryland and their children who attend public institutions of higher education in Maryland. Foster care recipients also receive tuition waivers at all public

institutions of higher education. At Morgan State University and St. Mary's College of Maryland, senior citizens may take up to three courses per term without paying tuition.

Background: Purple Hearts are awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have been wounded by enemy instruments of war. Although the exact number is unknown, the Veteran's Administration has estimated that there are 10,000 to 11,000 Purple Heart recipients in Maryland.

Resident undergraduate tuition rates and mandatory fees for each public institution of higher education are shown in **Exhibit 1**.

Exhibit 1
Annual Tuition and Mandatory Fees at USM Institutions
Resident Undergraduate Students
Fall 2002 to 2004

<u>University</u>	<u>Fall 2002</u>	<u>Fall 2003</u>	<u>Proposed Fall 2004</u>
Bowie State	\$4,064	\$4,853	\$5,218
Coppin State	3,959	4,240	4,454
Frostburg State	4,618	5,342	5,830
Salisbury	4,804	5,564	5,976
Towson	5,401	6,226	6,672
U of Baltimore	4,996	5,913	6,448
UM Baltimore*	5,096	6,224	6,626
UM Baltimore County	6,362	7,388	8,020
UM College Park	5,670	6,759	7,426
UM Eastern Shore	4,461	5,105	5,558
UM Univ College**	6,180	6,660	6,780
Morgan State	\$4,698	\$5,078	\$5,578
St. Mary's College	7,767	8,425	8,847

* Based on tuition and fees for the School of Nursing, the largest undergraduate program at UMB.

** Based on 30 credit hours per year.

State Revenues: Tuition and fee revenues at public institutions of higher education would decrease for each Purple Heart recipient who qualifies for a tuition exemption.

There are an estimated 10,000 to 11,000 Purple Heart recipients in Maryland, but it is assumed that only a small percentage of the recipients, the majority of whom are probably well beyond college age, would pursue the tuition exemptions.

Due to the October 1, 2004 effective date, which is after the start of the fall 2004 semester, it is assumed that the spring 2005 semester would be the first semester in which Purple Heart recipients would qualify for tuition and fee exemptions. For each qualifying Purple Heart recipient, higher education revenues would decrease by the cost of in-state undergraduate tuition and fees. As shown in Exhibit 1, annual fiscal 2005 tuition and mandatory fees will range from \$4,454 at Coppin State College to \$8,847 at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

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

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mh/hlb

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