

**Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session**

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 192  
Appropriations

(Delegate Moe, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

**Higher Education - Firefighters and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Members -  
Tuition Assistance**

This bill extends to nonresidents of Maryland the tuition reimbursement program that is available to career and volunteer firefighters and ambulance and rescue squad members working in Maryland. In addition, the bill requires a firefighter or ambulance or rescue squad member who receives tuition reimbursement to work for a minimum of 20 hours per week on average to be reimbursed.

The bill is effective July 1, 2005.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$20,000 annually beginning in FY 2006 to fund tuition reimbursements for approximately 10 additional individuals each year. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Net Effect	(\$20,000)	(\$20,000)	(\$20,000)	(\$20,000)	(\$20,000)

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** Any career or volunteer firefighter or ambulance or rescue squad member who is a resident of Maryland receives full and complete reimbursement for courses credited toward a degree in fire service technology or emergency medical technology. The reimbursement, however, may not exceed tuition and mandatory fee costs at the University System of Maryland institution with the highest annual expenses for full-time resident undergraduate students, not including the University of Maryland University College and the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

A reimbursement is paid one year after successful completion of each academic year. A payment may only be made if the applicant is still employed or actively engaged as a career firefighter or ambulance or rescue squad member in Maryland.

**Background:** The proposed fiscal 2006 State budget includes \$344,311 for tuition reimbursements for firefighters and ambulance and rescue squad members, the same amount as the working appropriation for fiscal 2005. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) reports that 127 individuals received tuition reimbursement in fiscal 2004 and projects that 147 individuals will receive tuition reimbursement in fiscal 2005.

**State Expenditures:** MHEC advises that approximately 10 applicants were denied tuition reimbursements in fiscal 2004 because they did not reside in Maryland. The average fiscal 2004 award amount under the program was \$1,749, down from \$2,344 in fiscal 2003. Assuming that 10 additional applicants per year qualify for awards that average \$2,000 each, general fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$20,000 annually. The increase could be partially offset by a minimal reduction in payments to firefighters and ambulance and rescue squad members who do not work an average of 20 hours per week.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill was introduced in 2004 as HB 1510. The bill passed in the House but was not reported out of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 4, 2005  
n/rhh

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