

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

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

Senate Bill 440

(Harford County Senators)

Judicial Proceedings

Health and Government Operations

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**Education - Tuition Assistance Program for Firemen and Rescue Squad  
Members - Renaming**

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This bill renames the tuition assistance program for firemen and rescue squad members as the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Tuition Reimbursement Program. The bill also authorizes changes to the Annotated Code by its publishers to reflect the new name.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Renaming this special fund would not have a significant operational or financial impact on State government units. It is assumed that any additional printing costs reflecting the new name could be absorbed with existing budgeted resources of the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** MHEC, via its Office of Student Financial Assistance, must provide full and complete tuition reimbursements for active career or volunteer firefighters and ambulance or rescue squad members who receive credit for courses towards degrees in fire service technology or emergency medical technology. Firefighters and rescue workers must be Maryland residents to qualify. Reimbursements may not exceed the cost

of resident tuition rates at a four-year public institution of higher education within the University of Maryland System.

**Background:** MHEC awards tuition reimbursements to approximately 150 firefighters and rescue workers annually. MHEC reports that it has consistently awarded reimbursements to all qualified applicants.

Charles W. Riley, P.P. was the Chairperson Emeritus of the Maryland State Firemen's Association. He died in 2005.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 581 (Harford County Delegation) – Health and Government Operations.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 2006  
mam/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 22, 2006

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