

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 581

(Harford County Delegation, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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

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.

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.

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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 440 (Harford County Senators) – Judicial Proceedings.

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
mll/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 28, 2006

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