

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1681
 Ways and Means

(Delegate Heller)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Community Colleges - Supplemental Services and Supports for Students with Disabilities - Grant Program

This bill requires the Maryland Higher Education Commission to establish and administer a grant program for supplemental services and supports for students with disabilities in community colleges. The commission, in cooperation with the Department of Disabilities, must establish a competitive review process for awarding grants and adopt any other necessary guidelines or regulations for administering the program.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase significantly beginning in FY 2007 to fund a grant program. Although not required by the bill, the FY 2007 State budget includes \$500,000 for community college students with disabilities.

(in dollars)	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Net Effect	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: Chapter 423 of 2005 established the Community College Students with Disabilities Task Force to identify strategies to improve educational and employment outcomes for community college students with disabilities and develop recommendations to enable community colleges to acquire the resources to serve students with disabilities. A final report was submitted in December 2005.

One of the recommendations of the task force is \$500,000 annually to fund discretionary grants to provide necessary supports for students with disabilities. Social skills training for students with autism spectrum disorders, expansion of tutoring support for students with math disabilities, wellness initiatives for students with psychological disabilities are examples of supports that promote successful outcomes in the postsecondary setting.

There are approximately 12,300 students with disabilities attending public elementary and secondary schools in Maryland. It is not known how many attend community colleges in the State. A study conducted for the Commission on Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence in 2001 concluded that, on average, the cost to educate an elementary or secondary student with a disability is equal to 217% of the cost to educate a nondisabled student.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by \$500,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2007 for grants to provide supplemental services and supports for students with disabilities in community colleges. The fiscal 2007 State budget includes \$500,000 in general funds in the Maryland Higher Education Commission's budget for community college students with disabilities.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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