

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1303 (Delegate Smigiel, *et al.*)
 Ways and Means

Higher Education - Scholarship Program - Eagle Scouts and Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients

This bill establishes an Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient Scholarship Program. To qualify for a scholarship, an applicant must be: (1) an Eagle Scout or the recipient of a Girl Scout Gold Award; (2) a Maryland resident; (3) enrolled in an institution of higher education in Maryland prior to the age of 21; and (4) a candidate for an associate’s or bachelor’s degree. The scholarship amount is \$2,000 and may be received for up to five years. Up to 50 Eagle Scouts and 50 Girl Scout Gold Award recipients may receive scholarships each year on a first-come, first-served basis. Beginning in fiscal 2008, the Governor must include \$200,000 in the annual State budget for the program.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Mandated general fund expenditures would increase by \$200,000 annually beginning in FY 2008. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Net Effect	\$0	(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There are approximately 20 student financial aid programs administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

Background: Eagle Scout is the highest rank a Boy Scout can earn. To achieve the rank, a Boy Scout must fulfill leadership, service, and outdoor skills requirements. More than 1 million Boy Scouts have earned the rank of Eagle Scout since 1911.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout can receive and is the equivalent of a Boy Scout earning recognition as an Eagle Scout. In addition to various prerequisites, a Girl Scout must design and complete a Gold Award project that meets a community need in order to earn the award.

State Expenditures: Mandated general fund expenditures would increase by \$200,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2008. The State funding would be used to award \$2,000 scholarships to 100 Eagle Scouts and Girl Scout Gold Award recipients each year.

Because the number of awards is limited to 100 students, the scholarship amount is predetermined, and the scholarship qualifications are uncomplicated, OSFA advises that it could make awards under the new program with existing personnel.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 2006
nas/rhh

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