

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 204

(Delegate Rice, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Higher Education - Study of the Cost of Textbooks for Higher Education

This bill requires the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) to examine retail prices of textbooks for higher education students in the State; study factors that impact retail prices of textbooks; and report on the advantages and disadvantages of: (1) posting textbook information online as proposed by Senate Bill 166 of 2007; and (2) requiring tuition to cover the costs of textbooks as proposed by Senate Bill 785 of 2007. DLS is required to complete the study by November 1, 2007.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: DLS could conduct the study with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: The General Accounting Office estimates that the cost of textbooks and school supplies as a percentage of tuition and fees ranges from 72% at two-year public institutions, 26% at four-year public institutions, and 8% at four-year private institutions.

MHEC estimates that college students in Maryland spent an average of \$905 on textbooks in the 2005-2006 school year.

The Office of Student Financial Assistance within MHEC administers the State's financial assistance programs, which are designed to improve access to higher education for needy students, encourage students to major in areas of great economic need to the State, and encourage Maryland's brightest students to attend college in the State. Need-based State aid programs include guaranteed access, educational assistance, campus-based, and part-time grants as well as need-based graduate and professional scholarships.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Comptroller's Office, General Accounting Office, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2007
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 24, 2007
Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 7, 2007

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