

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Revised

House Bill 269

(Delegates Rosenberg and N. King)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Walter Sondheim Jr. Public Service Summer Internship Scholarship Program

This bill establishes a Walter Sondheim Jr. Public Service Summer Internship Scholarship Program administered by the Shriver Center at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). Each participating student is placed in a summer internship with a qualifying nonprofit company, the State, or a local government and, subject to the availability of funds, receives a \$3,000 scholarship from the Shriver Center. Funds for the program may be provided in the annual State budget.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by up to \$225,000 in FY 2008 to fund 75 program scholarships. Future year estimates assume 100 scholarships per year. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	225,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Net Effect	(\$225,000)	(\$300,000)	(\$300,000)	(\$300,000)	(\$300,000)

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

Local Effect: The bill would not directly affect local government finances, but the program could indirectly benefit local governments that employ summer interns from the program.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal. Small nonprofit businesses could benefit from program referrals.

Analysis

Bill Summary: College juniors, seniors, and graduate students are eligible to participate in the Walter Sondheim Jr. Public Service Summer Internship Scholarship Program. By January 1 of each year, institutions of higher education in Maryland may nominate eligible students for participation. Subject to the availability of funds, the Shriver Center must award scholarships by May 1 of each year. The number of scholarships is limited to 75 in fiscal 2008 and 100 in fiscal 2009.

In choosing student participants, priority must be given to Maryland residents who have demonstrated interest in public service careers and who assist in providing: (1) legal services to low-income residents; (2) social work services to low-income residents; (3) nursing services in designated nursing shortage areas; and (4) other services in the public or nonprofit sector in which there is a shortage of qualified practitioners for low-income or underserved residents or underserved areas of the State. Internships may be paid or unpaid.

The Shriver Center must serve as a clearinghouse for public and nonprofit entities that wish to hire program interns and must adopt eligibility criteria for the program and procedures for the payment of the scholarship award and the repayment of the scholarship award if the internship requirements are not fulfilled. The center must report annually on the implementation of the program.

Current Law: The Walter Sondheim Jr. Public Service Summer Internship Scholarship Program would be a new State program.

Background: The mission statement for the Shriver Center says that the center “strives to:

- engage students and faculty in applied learning linked to academic study;
- develop socially engaged citizens with the commitment and experience to serve responsibly in their communities, the State, and the nation; and
- harness the resources of [UMBC] to strengthen our communities, and to build their capacity to meet the needs of civil society through the development and leadership of community-based service delivery programs.”

The web site for the Shriver Center claims that it places more than 700 UMBC students into internships with more than 500 public and private organizations annually. The site states that the center’s internship and cooperative education program is a resource for businesses and a valuable training tool for students.

Walter Sondheim Jr., a long-time leader in civic affairs, died February 15, 2007 at the age of 98. As President of the Baltimore City School Board in 1954, Mr. Sondheim led the desegregation of the city's public schools and later chaired the State commission that developed the Maryland School Performance and Assessment Program, which became the State's primary assessment tool for a decade and was the precursor to the current assessments.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by up to \$225,000 in fiscal 2008 to fund 75 \$3,000 Public Service Summer Internship Scholarships if funds are added to the budget. Expenditures could increase by \$300,000 in fiscal 2009, when up to 100 scholarships could be funded. Although there is no limit on the number of scholarships that could be provided after fiscal 2009, it is assumed that 100 scholarships per year would be funded at a cost of \$300,000 annually. These estimates assume that existing Shriver Center employees could monitor and report on the new program.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2007
mll/rhh Revised - House Third Reader - March 29, 2007
Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 11, 2007

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510