

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 283 (Senator Kittleman)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Legislative Scholarships - Public Announcements and Acknowledgements by
Legislator - Prohibition**

This bill prohibits legislators from making public announcements or statements about the awarding of legislative scholarships and from participating in public ceremonies associated with the awarding of legislative scholarships. A legislator may still notify the recipient of a legislative scholarship that an award has been made and may issue a statement about the availability of legislative scholarships and the process for awarding the scholarships.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Total funding for senatorial and delegate scholarships would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each Senator may award \$138,000 in scholarship funds each year through the Senatorial Scholarship Program. During a term in office, each Delegate may award the equivalent of four four-year full-time scholarships through the Delegate Scholarship Program. Senators and Delegates are not barred from making public statements about the awarding of legislative scholarships or attending public ceremonies associated with the awarding of legislative scholarships.

Background: The proposed fiscal 2009 State budget includes \$6.5 million for senatorial scholarships (\$138,000 per Senator) and \$4.9 million for delegate scholarships (\$34,488 per Delegate). Within the eligibility guidelines established in State law, the scholarships are generally awarded to higher education students from each legislative district by the Senator and Delegates from the district.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 2008
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