

HB 1287

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1287

(Delegate Haynes, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grants - Public Servants - Parren J. Mitchell Public Service Scholarship

This bill establishes Parren J. Mitchell Public Service Scholarships within the existing Workforce Shortage Student Assistance grants administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission. MHEC must annually select eligible students and offer grants to students who demonstrate outstanding potential for and who plan to pursue a career in public service and assist in providing social work services to low-income Maryland residents, nursing services in nursing shortage areas in Maryland, or other services in the public or nonprofit sectors in which there is a shortage of qualified practitioners for low-income or underserved residents or areas of Maryland.

The bill also specifies that the existing William Donald Schaefer Scholarships offered under the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance grants are for students who plan to pursue a career in public service to assist in providing legal services to low-income Maryland residents. MHEC must annually select Schaefer Scholarship recipients.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill names an existing field in the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program for Parren J. Mitchell.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program provides financial aid to students who agree to work in Maryland in designated critical shortage fields upon completion of their studies. The program requires grant recipients to work for one year in Maryland in workforce shortage fields for each year that they receive the grants. Within the program, there is a William Donald Schaefer Scholarship provided to students who demonstrate outstanding potential for and who plan to pursue careers in public service. MHEC selects Schaefer Scholarship recipients in collaboration and consultation with the William Donald Schaefer Scholarship Advisory Council.

Background: Following graduation from Morgan State University, Parren J. Mitchell filed suit in 1950 to compel the University of Maryland to enroll him as its first African American graduate student. After completing a master's degree in sociology, Mitchell returned to Morgan to teach. In the 1960s, he acted as the director of anti-poverty programs in Baltimore City before establishing another first in 1970 when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as Maryland's first African American Congressman. Some of Mitchell's most notable achievements guaranteed minority-owned businesses access to government contracts, and in 1980 he founded The Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. Mitchell passed away on May 28, 2007 in Baltimore City at the age of 85.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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