

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 74

(Delegate Rosenberg, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Walter Sondheim Jr. Public Service Internship Scholarship Program -
Expansion of Scope

The bill provides for spring and fall internship scholarships in addition to summer internships under the Walter Sondheim Jr. Public Service Internship Scholarship Program and renames the program accordingly.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Expanding *eligibility* for the Sondheim internship scholarship administered by the Shriver Center at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) does not require additional funds. However, in order to offer fall and spring scholarships without additional funding, *fewer* summer scholarships or *smaller* scholarship amounts need to be offered. Alternatively, an additional \$3,000 per scholarship is needed. UMBC can handle any administrative costs using existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: An institution of higher education in the State may nominate eligible students to participate in the program on or before (1) January 1 of each year for summer and fall internships and (2) October 1 of each year for spring internships. Subject to available funds for eligible students who have agreed to serve in a public service internship, the Shriver Center must award scholarships on or before (1) January 15 of each

year for spring internships; (2) May 1 of each year for summer internships; and (3) August 1 of each year for fall internships.

Current Law/Background: Chapter 490 of 2007 established the Walter Sondheim Jr. Public Service *Summer* Internship Scholarship Program to assist college and graduate students with exploring public service career opportunities through summer internships. Priority for participation in the program must be given to eligible students who (1) are residents of the State; (2) have demonstrated interest in careers in public service; and (3) assist in providing legal services to low-income State residents, social work services to low-income State residents, nursing services in nursing shortage areas, 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 the State.

The Shriver Center at UMBC administers the program and serves as a clearinghouse for public and nonprofit entities that wish to hire summer interns from the program. The Shriver Center may award scholarships for \$3,000 under the program each year, subject to the availability of funds.

The Walter Sondheim Jr. Public Service Summer Internship Scholarship Program has awarded summer internship scholarships to approximately 45 students annually in recent years (out of approximately 300 eligible applicants). The program is supported with State general fund appropriations to UMBC.

State Expenditures: Expanding *eligibility* for the Sondheim internship scholarship does not require additional funds. However, to offer fall and spring scholarships without additional funding, *fewer* summer scholarships or smaller scholarships need to be offered. Alternatively, an additional \$3,000 per scholarship is needed to offer fall and spring internships.

UMBC can handle any administrative costs using existing resources. However, the Shriver Center advises that it operates the Sondheim scholarship program as a cohort program to maximize the impact for participants and the efficiency of the program; without additional funding, it may not offer a fall or spring scholarship program.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): University System of Maryland, University of Maryland
Baltimore County, Department of Legislative Services

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min/rhh

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