

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1074
Appropriations

(Delegate Wilson, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Public Institutions of Higher Education - Priority Registration for Members of
the Armed Forces

This bill requires public institutions of higher education to grant priority course registration to eligible service members, as defined. The priority registration requirement applies only within 15 years after an eligible service member was last on active duty and does not apply after an eligible service member's fourth academic year.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Public institutions of higher education can likely implement the priority registration requirement with existing processes and resources, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Community colleges can likely implement the priority registration requirement with existing processes and resources, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: There is no requirement that public institutions of higher education establish priority registration – for service members or any other population. University System of Maryland policy requires a student to maintain satisfactory levels of academic progress, as established by each institution, to remain eligible to register. Each institution may adopt policies establishing additional criteria for registration eligibility.

Morgan State University currently gives priority registration to veterans, in addition to seniors (90 or more credits completed), graduate students, honors students, and athletes.

State Expenditures: Most, if not all, public institutions of higher education currently have some form of course registration priority system. Priority may be given to certain populations, such as individuals with disabilities, or athletes, and is generally otherwise based on the number of credits a student has completed. Therefore, each institution can likely provide priority registration to eligible service members with existing processes and resources. To the extent this is not the case for a particular institution, higher education expenditures for public four-year institutions and/or Baltimore City Community College increase for any staff and/or related information technology costs. The most likely costs are one-time information technology expenses to update course registration systems.

Local Expenditures: For the same reasons as discussed above, local community colleges can likely provide priority registration to eligible service members with existing processes and resources. To the extent this is not the case for a particular community college, local community college expenditures increase.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; St. Mary's College of Maryland; Maryland Association of Community Colleges; Baltimore City Community College; Department of Legislative Services

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