

HOUSE BILL 809

F2

6lr1640

By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Walter Sondheim Jr. Public Service Internship Scholarship Program – Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying the intern fellowships that exist in the Walter Sondheim Jr.
4 Public Service Internship Scholarship Program; requiring the Governor to include in
5 the annual budget bill an appropriation for the Program that is at least a certain
6 percentage of the appropriation provided in a prior fiscal year; and generally relating
7 to the Walter Sondheim Jr. Public Service Internship Scholarship Program.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Education

10 Section 18–1702 and 18–1704

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, Governor Wes Moore has made commitment to public service a
15 preeminent issue of his administration by establishing the Maryland Department of
16 Service and Civic Innovation, launching the service year option for high school graduates,
17 and expanding on the promise of Maryland Corps; and

18 WHEREAS, Governor Wes Moore has continued to build on his work by allocating
19 over \$50 million in both the fiscal year 2025 and fiscal year 2026 budget bills to provide
20 public service in the State, including securing federal funding; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 WHEREAS, This is vital work that the State must build on to ensure a new
2 generation grows up to serve our State and its people; now, therefore,

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
4 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

5 **Article – Education**

6 18–1702.

7 (a) **(1)** There is a scholarship program known as the Walter Sondheim Jr.
8 Public Service Internship Scholarship Program in the State.

9 **(2) THE PROGRAM CONSISTS OF AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC**
10 **SERVICE INTERN FELLOWSHIPS:**

11 **(I) THE GOVERNOR’S SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM;**

12 **(II) THE SONDHEIM MARYLAND NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP**
13 **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM; AND**

14 **(III) THE SONDHEIM PUBLIC SERVICE LAW FELLOWS**
15 **PROGRAM.**

16 (b) The purpose of the Program is to assist college and graduate students to
17 explore public service career opportunities through internships.

18 (c) The Shriver Center shall administer the Program.

19 (d) An institution of higher education in the State may nominate eligible students
20 to participate in the Program on or before:

21 (1) January 1 of each year for summer and fall internships; and

22 (2) October 1 of each year for spring internships.

23 (e) Priority for participation in the Program shall be given to an eligible student
24 who:

25 (1) Is a resident of the State;

26 (2) Has demonstrated an interest in a career in public service; and

27 (3) Assists in providing:

28 (i) Legal services:

1 (I) THE GOVERNOR’S SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM;

2 (II) THE SONDHEIM MARYLAND NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP
3 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM; AND

4 (III) THE SONDHEIM PUBLIC SERVICE LAW FELLOWS
5 PROGRAM.

6 (b) The Governor may provide funding in the State budget to the Shriver Center
7 to administer the Program.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.