

HOUSE BILL 809

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6lr1640

By: Delegate Rosenberg

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Article – Education

2 18–1702.

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

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

7 (I) **THE GOVERNOR'S SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM;**

8 (II) **THE SONDEHEIM MARYLAND NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP**
9 **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM; AND**

10 (III) **THE SONDEHEIM PUBLIC SERVICE LAW FELLOWS**
11 **PROGRAM.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (1) Is a resident of the State;

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

23 (3) Assists in providing:

24 (i) Legal services:

25 1. To low-income residents in the State who cannot afford
26 legal services; or

27 2. In a public service position;

- (ii) Social work services to low-income residents in the State;
- (iii) Nursing services in nursing shortage areas in the State as defined in section 2 of this title; or
- (iv) Other services in the public or nonprofit sectors in which there is a shortage of qualified practitioners to low-income or underserved residents or areas of the State.

7 (f) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, for eligible students who
8 have agreed to serve in a public service internship, the Shriver Center shall award
9 scholarships on or before:

10 (i) January 15 of each year for spring internships;

11 (ii) May 1 of each year for summer internships; and

12 (iii) August 1 of each year for fall internships.

15 (g) Subject to the availability of funds, the scholarship award under the Program
16 shall be at least \$2,000 and no more than \$5,000.

17 (h) The Shriver Center shall serve as a clearinghouse for public and nonprofit
18 entities that wish to hire public service interns participating in the Program.

19 18-1704.

20 (a) (1) Funds for the Program [may] SHALL be provided on an annual basis in
21 the State budget IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION.

1 (III) THE SONDEHIM PUBLIC SERVICE LAW FELLOWS 2 PROGRAM.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2026.