

HB 1253

Higher Education - Scholarship Program - Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients

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Good Afternoon Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson, and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you about HB 1253.

This bill establishes an Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient Scholarship Program. To qualify for this scholarship the student must be an Eagle Scout or recipient of the Girl Scout Gold Award, under the age of 21, a Maryland resident, and enrolled in an institution of higher education in Maryland.

Earning an Eagle Scout or Gold Scout award is a long process. It takes years of meeting requirements, dedication, and hard work to achieve the highest rank one can receive in these organizations. For both the Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award, individuals must complete a project that benefits their community and also serve as a leader in their troop. These individuals start young and slowly move through the ranks and I believe this scholarship honors their work.

The scholarship amount is \$2,000 and may be received for up to five years. Additionally, up to 50 Eagle Scouts and 50 Girl Scout Gold Award recipients may receive scholarships each year on a first-come, first-served basis.

Beginning in fiscal 2022, the Governor must include \$200,000 in the annual State budget for the program.

For these reasons I thank you and I urge a favorable report.