

Support with Amendments**House Appropriations Committee*****House Bill 899 (Boteler) Higher Education – Scholarship Program – Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients*****Sara C. Fidler, President**sfidler@micua.org**February 22, 2022**

On behalf of the member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the 58,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in **support with amendments** of [House Bill 899 \(Boteler\) Higher Education – Scholarship Program – Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients](#). This bill establishes a \$2,000 scholarship award for Eagle Scouts and recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award. The bill also requires an annual appropriation of \$200,000 for the program. MICUA supports this legislation; however, **we respectfully request an amendment to allow students to use these generous awards at private nonprofit institutions of higher education as well as at public institutions.**

Scholarship programs are instrumental in increasing college access to Maryland high school students and in helping them to complete a college education. Scholarships that are applicable across all Maryland institutions of higher education, including MICUA schools, afford students more options to pursue their college education at the college or university that best meets their needs.

The MICUA colleges and universities are committed to helping students obtain the financial assistance they need to access their choice of institution of higher education. We use 85%-90% of our Seller funding for financial aid for Maryland students, and in Fiscal 2021, we awarded over \$300 million in institution-based financial aid. We have seen increased financial need in recent years, especially during the pandemic, and this bill will help alleviate some of the economic pressures on these specific students. Our institutions provide financial aid to 91% of incoming first-time full-time undergraduate students. Overall, 82% of MICUA undergraduate students receive financial aid.

We appreciate the sponsor's commitment to making higher education more affordable and accessible by establishing the Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient Scholarship Program. **We hope that the Committee will adopt our proposed amendment to allow students who attend MICUA institutions to be eligible for receiving the scholarship.** If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Angela Sherman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, asherma@micua.org.

For all of these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable with amendments report for House Bill 899.

Amendments to HB 899 Higher Education – Scholarship Program – Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients

By: MICUA

18-3901.

(A) THERE IS AN EAGLE SCOUT AND GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

(B) A RECIPIENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP AWARD UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:

(1) (I) BE AN EAGLE SCOUT; OR

(II) BE A RECIPIENT OF THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD;

(2) BE A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;

(3) BE ENROLLED AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE THAT THE STUDENT REACHES THE AGE OF 21 YEARS; AND

(4) BE ENROLLED AS A CANDIDATE FOR AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE.

(C) THE EAGLE SCOUT AND GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR EACH SCHOOL YEAR IS \$2,000.

(D) A RECIPIENT MAY CONTINUE TO RECEIVE AN AWARD UNTIL THE EARLIER OF:

(1) 5 YEARS AFTER FIRST ENROLLING AS A CANDIDATE FOR AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE AT **A PUBLIC AN** INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE; OR

(2) THE DATE THAT THE STUDENT IS AWARDED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE.

(E) THE OFFICE SHALL APPROVE UP TO THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS EACH YEAR ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS:

(1) 50 AWARDS TO EAGLE SCOUTS; AND

(2) 50 AWARDS TO GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS.

(F) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$200,000 FOR THE EAGLE SCOUT AND GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any student enrolled in **a public an** institution of higher education before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

On page 2, in line 15, strike “A PUBLIC” and substitute “AN”; and in line 29, strike “a public” and substitute “an”.