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Vice Chair
Education, Health, and
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Joint Audit Committee

Joint Committee on Federal Relations



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## THE SENATE OF MARYLAND ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

## SB262: Higher Education – Senatorial and Delegate Scholarships – Qualifications and Limitations

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Wednesday, February 9, 2022 | 1pm

Legislative scholarships provide much-needed assistance to students striving to advance their academic careers. During the 2020-2021 school year, Senators and Delegates awarded over \$12 million to more than 17,000 Maryland students.

Current law establishes different guidelines for how Senate and Delegate Scholarships are selected. <u>SB262</u> would clarify for constituents and legislators who is eligible for a scholarship by:

- Requiring that all legislative scholarships be awarded only to residents of a legislator's district;
- Clarifying that students who move to another legislative district would retain their scholarship from the legislator(s) who originally granted the award; and
- Allowing relatives of Senators and Delegates who are constituents to apply for scholarships funds, but only after the legislator:
  - Obtains permission from the President of the Senate or Speaker of the House respectively; and
  - Discloses the award to the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics.

In the same way that we target our staff time and efforts to constituents regarding casework, we should prioritize our limited scholarship funds to support students within our districts.

I urge a favorable report on SB262.